









## Medical authorities at coroner to select transplants

John Roper, a senior consultant at the Royal Free Hospital, said that his personal distaste had not influenced his actions over the removal of the heart of Carol Morris, who died in an accident.

He was not opposed to transplant, whatever his personal feelings. Each case would be considered on its merits but all the formalities must be correctly followed.

Doctors concerned in the heart transplant in this case were so immersed in what they were doing that they did not know that the heart was being removed, he thought, was not deliberate. They had assumed that he had given permission.

The argument that his restrictions would cause extra delay in transplant operations was also a factor, he thought. Potential donor patients could be kept going on heart-lung support machines for weeks. An extra hour or two to meet the law's requirement would make no difference.

Transplant teams were concerned yesterday because any delay presents them with an additional hazard.

The practice of coroners in giving consent to the removal of organs varies but is largely dependent upon relationships built up with doctors concerned. Sometimes permission is given on the telephone in the knowledge that signed documents will be delivered.

Guidance sent to all coroners from the Home Office recognized that the coroner's discretion to give or refuse consent appeared to be arbitrary, but hoped that they would not place obstacles in the way of doctors or take moral or ethical decisions.

The guidance points out the need to remove organs as soon as possible after the death of a donor—in the case of kidneys, within half an hour.

North West Thames regional health authority is to consider drawing up a regional policy on heart transplant operations, largely because of the expense involved. A heart transplant costs between £17,000 and £20,000. Advice will be taken from doctors.

But Mr. Charman, a lay citizen of Leicester Cathedral, who is married, with two children, said that his personal distaste had not influenced his actions over the removal of the heart of Carol Morris, who died in an accident.

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## Quieter life for friend of 750,000 monkeys

By Frances Gibb

Mr. Neville Whittaker was having a 10th python one day when it turned and sank its teeth into the back of his hand.

The bite put him into hospital, but his first thought was for the snake. "My main worry," he recalls, "was how to unhook its teeth without harming it in any way."

Luckily such incidents have been rare in the nearly 30 years that Mr. Whittaker has run the RSPCA animal hospital at Heathrow Airport. But it reveals the sentiment that earned him the job in the first place, in 1952.

He retired this month, aged 62, from work in which he has seen as many as 750,000 monkeys to take just one species, and he recalls that his passion for animals started with donkey rides on Blackpool beach.

Cleaning brass handles at Blackpool Tower Zoo led to looking after the animals there. Then, rejected for a job with the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals because "he did not have the qualifications" he joined a circus.

It was a fight among circus dogs that took him to his last job, a switch that he says is like an alcoholic suddenly joining the Temperance League. The conditions of the circus animals began to depress him, and he applied for work with the RSPCA after being impressed by the treatment it gave an injured circus dog.

The circus experience was useful when three lions escaped from their boxes into the hotel's outer enclosure and had to be coaxed back through tunnels. Another tricky moment was trying to cajole an alligator back into its box after untying its snout.

But his favourite tale is how a dozen stump-tail monkeys escaped into his office from an adjoining room, and were confronted with the stuffed dog he kept there.



Mr. Neville Whittaker with some of his animal friends at RSPCA headquarters at Heathrow yesterday.

"I was coming in at the time and suddenly 12 tiny monkeys hurled themselves at me, terrified, thinking the dog was one of their deadly enemies."

Much of the drama of the hotel has been cut in a trickle because of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act, 1976, and laws protecting

endangered species. From a peak of 100,000 a month, only a few a day now stay at the hotel.

His retirement therefore marks an end of an era, although the RSPCA is keeping a token presence at the airport. "I feel the job has been done," he says.

## Scottish devolution rally may lead to revival—or burial

## Nationalist slide after referendum

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

One year exactly after the Scottish referendum, the first significant protest, about the collapse of devolution and the Scottish assembly are being made today.

The amount of serious attention attracted by a rally in Edinburgh, organized by the newly-formed Campaign for a Scottish Assembly, or how much bitter nostalgia is stirred by the "symbolic protest" march through the city organized by the Scottish National Party, will indicate the strength remaining in the campaign to win greater autonomy for Scotland.

When the assembly, within an ace of reality, foundered on Parliament's 40 per cent rule, the protest might have been expected to become deafening. But the devolution bandwagon, far from rolling farther down the road to independence, appeared to lose its wheels.

With the exception of some muted protests, it is only now that a serious attempt is being made either to revive the arguments or to put a decent tombstone on the last assembly campaign.

By the day of the vote Scots were frankly punch-drunk with

the arguments about what the assembly would mean; only 63 per cent turned out, 52 per cent voted for the government's assembly plan, and 48 per cent against. The 40 per cent rule ensured that those who did not turn out effectively registered a "no" vote.

According to the Labour Party, the assembly would provide a democratic watch on the Scottish Office. The Scottish National Party saw it as a stepping stone for independence for Scotland. The Conservatives thought the government's Bill was flawed, and they opposed it.

Since the referendum, devolution has slumped into a trough of indifference. Nationalists, who were to see their party's support sink at the general election that followed the referendum, were completely demoralized by Scotland's lack of appetite for even a mild form of devolution.

They lost much of the ground won from the Conservatives in 1974, and were unable to make any gains in the industrial west of Scotland. A left-right split in the party completed its misfortune.

Now the Nationalists are stirring again. Membership is claimed to be increasing, and

another North Sea oil campaign is planned. The Nationalists believe oil will become more relevant as the Government becomes more unpopular.

They say that public spending cuts in an economy which relies heavily on public sector employment will not be tolerated.

Meanwhile, the nearest thing to a Scottish assembly, the Scottish Select Committee, has a Tory majority but Mr. Donald Dewar, a Labour MP, as chairman. The committee has shown itself willing to concentrate on worthwhile subjects, but no political party would agree that the narrow level of scrutiny of a select committee is what we envisaged for the Scottish assembly.

Mr. Jack Brand, chairman of the Campaign for a Scottish Assembly, said there were dozens of signs that Scotland required self-government.

The rate of unemployment was the worst since 1939. The rate of emigration was rising. Housing in Scotland remained appalling, and oil brought prosperity to the North-east, but did little to the centre and west of Scotland, where help was most needed.

"Scotland," he said, "is being hammered."

## Trust refuses to cede lakeside land

From Our Correspondent, Whitehaven

Plans to raise the levels of two of the Lake District's most picturesque stretches of water were dealt a blow yesterday.

The National Trust announced at the "two lakes" inquiry in Whitehaven that it is not prepared to give up its land in question, at Ennerdale and West Water, and that it will oppose any compulsory purchase order.

The statement was made on the twenty-eighth day of the inquiry, which last night was adjourned for two weeks.

Mr. Alan Wheelan, representing the trust, told the inquiry inspectors that neither applicants, British Nuclear Fuels and the North-West Water Authority, had powers to carry out its proposals without the consent of the National Trust.

The trust, he said, would not agree with or follow the instructions of the Secretary of State if his decisions were in favour of any of the applications before the inquiry.

Mr. Denis Komlosy, the inspector, said he was surprised that the trust had announced its feelings so late in the hearing.

## Clues left at scene of latest arson attacks in Wales

Arsonists may have left valuable clues at the scene of two fires at holiday homes at Llan Ffestiniog in Gwynedd.

A farmer's wife saw flames from across the valley on Thursday night and gave the alarm, enabling firemen to prevent the destruction of the cottages which are 300 yards apart.

It is believed that the remains of an incendiary device were found in one cottage and canisters of petrol in the other.

In previous incidents the fires were not discovered for several days because of the remoteness of the cottages.

"This time the scenes are fresh," Detective Superintendent Gwyn Owen, who is leading the inquiry into the North Wales incidents, said.

Dr. Frank Skuse, a forensic scientist from the Home Office, would have greater scope in carrying out a detailed examination at the scenes yesterday, he said.

"Officers are making house-to-house inquiries in the area. The cottages are down a mile-long narrow track and to know of their existence would require intimate local knowledge."

The two attacks bring to 24 the number of incidents since the fire-rising campaign began in December.

One is owned by Dr. Derek Wells of West Cymru, Ynys-y-Welsh. The other is owned jointly by Mrs. Elisabeth Archer, the wife of a retired civil servant, and a friend, Dr. Ross Roberts, both handymen, live at Kew, London.

Mrs. Archer's son, M. David Archer, an official of the Snowdonia Park Authority, said yesterday that his mother was upset, hurt and angry. "My mother is Welsh and comes from Bala, a few miles away from the cottage. It is her final wish."

Dr. Wells blamed a "lunatic fringe" of Welsh extremists for the incidents.

"We have had nothing but friendliness since we bought the cottages four years ago. We bought it because we knew it was too remote from any modern plan of employment to be of practical use to a local person. I intend to retire there. My wife is partly Welsh and spent her school days in Dolgellau. These people are so discriminate and do not know factors such as that."

## Proposed to reduce nuclear

By Kenneth Owen, Technology Editor

A two-class framework of nuclear power development in various countries to give better utilization of resources and plutonium resources would help to manage the risk of proliferation of nuclear weapons, Dr. Walter F. FRS, deputy chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, said last night.

Speaking at the discussion in London, Dr. Faux urged that countries with advanced nuclear programmes should be encouraged to develop small programmes that concentrate on thermal (non-fission) reactors.

If the latter countries were able to sell spent fuel to a few countries, it would be a small step towards the benefits of fast reactors, he said.

That would concentrate the plutonium volume into a few countries, he said, and would reduce the risk of weapons proliferation.

It is longer in the development of interest of those countries that a plutonium technology is not advocating plutonium in spent fuel.

He said that a technical barrier to obtaining plutonium remained to obtain plutonium through a civil nuclear programme, but that plutonium (uranium-233) could be more easily be used.

## More curbs on dairy profits urged

By Hugh Clayton, Agricultural Correspondent

Tighter government controls on dairy profits were advocated yesterday in a report prepared for the Government by independent accountants.

But the report, of which only 25 copies are to be distributed, does not call for abolition of the much-criticized secret formula by which dairy profits on bottled milk are negotiated between processors and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The Consumers' Association said the report should be made available to the public. "If the system is to be maintained then the reasons for doing so should be made public."

The ministry said the report was too expensive to publish, even for those willing to pay the cost of printing extra copies. Reporters were invited yesterday to make appointments to read the single copy held by the ministry press office in London. An offer by The Times to buy a copy was declined.

An official explained later that the report had been commissioned by Mr. Peter Walker, the minister, for discussion with the milk industry. Mr. Walker said he would meet industry organizations to discuss the recommendations soon.

The main curb proposed was that dairy costs should be based on those of the most efficient companies instead of the reasonably efficient as at present. The report was welcomed by farmers, who feel that the secret formula has driven dairies more than a fair share of the profit allowed by the Government on bottled milk.

## Molyneux warning of 'Ulster assault'

From Christopher Thomas, Belfast

Mr. James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionist Party, yesterday set the scene for a predicted resistance to what he suggested would be a "fresh intense assault" on the position of Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom in the coming months.

He did so as the Stormont constitutional conference edged its way to item seven of a 14-point agenda entitled simply "role of committees". The Official Unionists are boycotting the talks.

But the main attention yesterday focused on Mr. Molyneux's tough comments, which came on the eve of an important speech today by the Rev. Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists. Mr. Molyneux told party supporters that the assault on Ulster's position within the United Kingdom would be spearheaded by Mr. Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, and Mr. John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the main voice of Roman Catholic moderates in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Haughey had already indicated his plan to instruct

Irish embassy staff around the world to enlist the support of foreign governments for Fionna Fáil policy on Northern Ireland.

West Belfast shooting: A man walking along a West Belfast street with a Provisional Sinn Féin official was shot dead yesterday. Three men were arrested soon afterwards.

Mr. Brendan McLoughlin, aged 35, married with three children, was walking with Mr. Joe Austin, a press spokesman for Sinn Féin, when he was shot. It is possible that Mr. Austin was the intended victim.

Other examination boards read to have more flexible arrangements for late entries. The Oxford and Cambridge GCE board said its closing date for applications was March 1, but that it would accept entries up to April 25 without charge, and would thereafter accept entries up to the day of the examination itself on payment of £10.

The City and Guilds board, whose examinations often include a substantial practical element, said it would charge an additional £6 fee for entries received after March 1, but that it would accept entries up to the day of the examination itself on payment of £10.

The Associated Examining Board said it would normally accept late entries for practical or oral examinations after March 1 unless the local examination centre already had another candidate in the same subject. It refused all late entries in general, but made exceptions could be made in cases, say, of applications lost in the post.

Late entries in other subjects will be accepted by the AEB, up to and including the course of the examination, on payment of a 55 fee for entries up to three weeks late, and £15 thereafter.

## Missing exam applications can cost pupils dear

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Parents whose children are due to take public examinations this summer would be well to check that their applications for entry have been received.

Boards do not acknowledge their receipt and a late entry could mean an extra fee of up to £15, or a refusal to allow the child to sit the examination at all. The closing date for most boards is today.

Mr. Frank Egging, a solicitor from Nottingham, is smarting under what he sees as the gross injustices of the system. His 14-year-old daughter's entry application for grade 3 piano, practical and theory was posted on January 15, with applications from two other children, to the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music but never arrived.

The mistake has just been discovered, and the children have been told they cannot sit the examination.

"Whoever is to blame, it is certainly not the children," Mr. Egging said.

Mr. Philip Cranmer, secretary to the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, said the board did not like to be mean about such matters, but it would be impossible to programme practical examinations with individual examinations if late entries were accepted. It

was not just a question of putting an extra desk in a room.

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## Solicitor is jailed and fined £10,000

Our Correspondent

A Baker, aged 51, a solicitor, was jailed for 12 months and fined £10,000 for each of three days in that month.

Between July, 1975 and December, 1976, Mr. Baker received 556,442 from the society for that kind of work. The society's accountants noticed that in the many hundreds of his claims, each was for the maximum of 24 hours' work.

Mr. Griffiths continued: "They found the amount of work he claimed to have worked was not credible at all. One of his highly colourful claims showed he had done 27½ hours' work on April 1, 1976, and he had done 25 hours' work on each of three other days in that month."

"In May he claimed for 370 hours' work in the month. For Monday, May 10, his claim was for 32½ hours and he was paid £325 for that day. In June he claimed he had done 382½ hours' work and in August 390 hours."

Mr. Griffiths said it was not possible to say by how much he had defrauded the Law Society.

legal aid work carried out without prior authority at the rate of £10 an hour, with a maximum of 24 hours' work in respect of each client a day. The maximum payment of each claim was, therefore, £25, and VAT.

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## Policeman who invented an interview jailed

From Our Correspondent, Maidstone

Donald Peter Bennett, aged 26, a Kent police constable, of Forest Road, Paddock Wood, said at Maidstone Crown Court yesterday that he had invented an interview with a motorist who was involved in a minor accident at Rainham in 1978, was jailed for nine months.

He pleaded guilty to attempting to pervert the course of justice by submitting a false summons report to superior officers.

The court was told that when questioned about it Mr. Bennett said he tried to interview the motorist several times but failed to find him at home. He invented the interview because he did not want to be criticized for getting behind with his paper work.

Mr. Bennett had been suspended from duty since last October and the court was told that it was more or less inevitable that his police career was finished.

## Football chief's better

Our Correspondent

Mr. Allison, aged 14, a Manchester City player, is recovering from a riding accident last year is making "good" progress.

Some round at Manchester. A 14-year-old boy, who is a Manchester City player, is recovering from a riding accident last year is making "good" progress.

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## Footballer says he lost £10,000 in company

From Our Correspondent, Birmingham

Peter Lorimer, the former United and Scotland footballer, told a jury at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday that he lost about £10,000 in his connections with a company marketing a solar heating system, which is alleged to be the subject of exaggerated claims.

Mr. Lorimer, of Rington Bank, near Leeds, was giving evidence in the trial of Dr. Edward Stringer, scientific director of Birmingham Observatory, who faces charges

under the Trade Descriptions Act over the solar heating system marketed by Sunwarma Ltd, a company of which he and Mr. Lorimer were directors.

Mr. Lorimer said he attended exhibitions where the company showed its products "purely for using my name for advertising purposes."

Earlier yesterday two of the 12 charges denied by Dr. Stringer, aged 51, of Westmoor, Rise Sutton, Goldfield, West Midlands, were dropped by the prosecution.

The trial continues next Monday.

## Sanctuary for deer

Mr. Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, is having four red deer from the mountains of Killarney shipped to his holiday island home, Inishvickillane, off Co. Kerry, in an attempt to preserve them.

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## WEST EUROPE

# Giscard visit reflects French concern for stability in Gulf

From Ian Murray Paris, Feb 29

President Giscard d'Estaing leaves Paris tomorrow morning for the longest official foreign journey he has undertaken since he came to power. During his 10-day trip he will visit six countries, including five Gulf states and Jordan.

This afternoon the president's office announced that he would be extending his trip by one day to include a meeting with King Khalid and Prince Fahd in Saudi Arabia. A planned visit by Mr Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, to Saudi Arabia earlier this month had to be cancelled because of King Khalid's illness.

The length and timing of the visit show how important France regards it to have good relations in the area now that Iran can no longer be looked to as the policeman of the Gulf. In the course of his meetings in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the Emirates, he will be underlining the French view that these small states must avoid falling under the influence of any power block in the interests of world peace.

France is already one of the largest arms suppliers to the area, having sold about 3,000m francs (about £318m) worth to the countries being visited in the last five years, including fighter aircraft, a whole range of missiles and tanks.

The President will be assuring his hosts that France will always be ready to supply them with arms they may still feel they need to protect their security and safeguard the oil routes out of the Gulf. Apart from arms deals other exchanges between France and the Arab countries on both economic and cultural levels will be discussed, with oil supplies a major topic. The presence of M André Giscard, the Industry Minister, M Jean-François Deniau, the External Trade Minister, and M Jean-Philippe Lecat, the Culture and Communications Minister, in the President's party indicate the sort of areas certain to be under discussion.

The fourth minister travelling with the party is M Jean-François Deniau, the External Trade Minister. It has been suggested that he will be involved, particularly during the Jordan stage of the visit, in presenting a European peace plan for the Israel-Arab conflict, a plan drawn up on French initiative.

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## OVERSEAS

# UN panel may see US hostages in two days

Tehran, Feb 29.—The United Nations commission investigating Iran's grievances against the former Shah confidently expects to see the hostages held at the United States embassy here within the next 48 hours, it was reported tonight.

Sources said the panel expected to see all the 50 hostages who have been held at the embassy since November 4. The meeting was not expected to take place tonight.

Earlier, an official at the office of Ayatollah Khomeini said that the students holding the hostages had agreed to a visit by the commission.

The official said: "The students have agreed the commission will see the hostages and in a few hours this visit will take place, but I cannot tell you the exact time, maybe in four hours, maybe in 20 hours."

The students declined to comment on the statement. Until yesterday they had ruled out a meeting with the commission and the hostages, saying such a meeting had nothing to do with the panel's task of investigating the former Shah's alleged crimes.

But yesterday, after an announcement by Mr Sa'ed Qotbzadeh, the Foreign Minister, that the commission would see the hostages, the students said the situation would require a new decision by them.

The members of the commission spent the morning working at their hotel. One was out of the country.

Sources said that the students' reluctance to allow a meeting with the captives had been softened by the panel's unequivocal stance on human rights violations under the former regime. But the sources cautioned against any suggestion that the visit might bring about the release of any of the hostages.

Miscalculation alleged: A spokesman for Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, today rejected a charge that Dr Waldheim had bungled efforts to end the Iran hostage crisis.

He said a Washington Post report of miscalculations by Dr Waldheim and his United Nations Secretary-General, today, rejected a charge that Dr Waldheim had bungled efforts to end the Iran hostage crisis.

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Firemen fighting a blaze at Paramaribo police headquarters after it was shelled from a gunboat.

# Ministers surrender in Surinam

The Hague, Feb 29.—Mr Henk Arron, the deposed Prime Minister of Surinam, has surrendered to the National Military Council set up by soldiers who seized power in the South American country on Monday, the Surinam News Agency said today.

The agency said four other ministers also gave themselves up last night with Mr Arron, who has been in hiding since the coup.

The correspondent for ANP, the Dutch news agency, in Paramaribo quoted Lieutenant Michel van Rey, member of the council, as saying that elections called by Mr Arron for March 27 would almost certainly not be held.

He said the council did not intend to compel people to stay in Surinam, which gained independence from the Netherlands in November 1975. But he felt Surinamese should be convinced that their place was in Surinam and not in the Netherlands.

More than 150,000 Surinamese are estimated to be living in the Netherlands, and last year about 1,000 people a month left Surinam, including a considerable number of management personnel.

The National Military Council is composed of Lieutenant van Rey and seven sergeants. Mr Sijde, a former Economic Minister, is likely to lead the civilian arm of the Government, which probably will not be set up until next week.—Reuters and Agence France-Presse.

# Belgrade sees neutralization as imposed solution

From Dassa Trevisan Belgrade, Feb 29

Yugoslav leaders have expressed a preference for a non-aligned, as opposed to neutral, Afghanistan in talks with Mr Roy Jenkins, the president of the European Commission.

Mr Jenkins's visit to Belgrade comes after the initialing of a preferential trade agreement between Yugoslavia and the Nine designed to strengthen the country's non-aligned status.

Mr Jenkins has already met several high ranking Yugoslav officials, including Mr Josip Vrhovec, the Foreign Minister, who had welcomed him to a visit to Bangladesh and India.

He raised with his hosts the Nine's proposal for a neutral Afghanistan.

The Yugoslavs, he said, have shown reticence about the idea of neutralization which to them suggests a solution imposed by outside powers. But he said that the Yugoslav leaders were impressed when he drew their attention to the fact that the word the EEC plan uses is "neutrality".

Nevertheless, the impression after the Yugoslav Foreign Minister's visit to India is that the non-aligned countries are not interested in same kind of negotiated settlement.

A State Department spokesman said yesterday that Soviet thinking remains unclear to us at best. The Administration was not

interested in "a propaganda exercise in which ideas are floated as a substitute for action, in which proposals are put forward to disguise what is happening is not a draw-down (reduction) of troops but a consolidation of troops for a build-up."

Presumably this was one of the points Mr Vance was seeking to clarify in his brief encounter with Mr Dobrynin today. Clearly Mr Vance has no intention of meeting Mr Gromyko if the signals from Moscow prove to be part of a clever plot to conceal an increasing Soviet attempt to crush Afghan insurgents.

Meanwhile, senior officials of the Administration have indicated that there are some indications that the Soviet Government has been sending more troops into Afghanistan.

Lack of support: A civilian instructor in Kabul and a week-long shopkeepers' strike have left the two-month-old Afghan Government of Mr Babrak Karmal more dependent than ever on the military support of the Soviet Union.

This is the clear conclusion to be drawn from the events of the past seven days in which well over 300 people died.

In the view of both Western and neutral diplomats in Kabul, a Soviet troop withdrawal now seems more unlikely than ever. The first time to leave an effectively communist government to meet certain extinction.—Reuters.

# Zanla guerrillas arrive at the double for a high speed vote

From Dan van der Vat Dender, Southern Rhodesia, Feb 29

About 2,500 Zanla guerrillas marched at the double in chanting detachments of 50 to the mobile polling booth at the edge of the town of Dender today to cast their votes under the eye of a Welsh police sergeant on the last day of the Southern Rhodesian election.

Voting was limited to today at all the assembly areas because it was felt that the high concentration of voters would make polling relatively rapid. So it proved here. The process was completed in good time for lunch.

Captain Greg Pike of the Australian Army, the Commonweath Monitoring Group commander here, said that there were 2,777 guerrillas in the camp today, supervised by 34 Australian soldiers and three British Royal Engineers. A minority was under 18 and some others did not qualify to vote for other reasons.

I saw one youth who could not have been a day over 16, smartly turned out in camouflage combat dress and red beret, being gently but firmly turned away from the booths, set up in an army marquee. He came close to tears, but a Zanla liaison officer patiently explained to him in Shona why he could not follow his comrades.

Later in the camp itself, I came across the boy again, proudly carrying a Soviet bolt-action rifle of Second World War vintage more than twice his age.

Mr Simon Hardwick, the British election supervisor, said that everything had gone smoothly and that the Australians had "done a very good job in the camp". The party agents all said they were satisfied with the way polling had been organized.

Sergeant Alan Gay, of the South Wales Police, from Bridgend proved something of a disappointment to some. He was not wearing a helmet but the white-topped cap of a traffic policeman. Souvenir hunters "liberated" his epaulettes instead.

"I've had a complete education in the past three days," he said. "The people back home aren't going to believe it. I even crossed over into Mozambique yesterday and had a chat with a political commissar."

The polling station stood outside the perimeter and the guerrillas, one in five of them women, marched up unarmed. Back at the camp itself it was rather different.

The number of weapons on view in the parts of the camp, covering two square kilometres, was said to be made the average regular army barracks look like a pacifist's convention.

One man came for water with a loaded rocket-launcher across his back, much to the alarm of Captain Stephen Pearce from a Royal Engineers depot in Cambridgeshire.

He asked Mr Zvaipa Chivvito, a member of the Zanla general staff, whether this was wise. "Oh, it's perfectly safe," Stephen said in fluent English. "Mind you, if it did go off, that group over there (of about 50 of his troops) would disappear."

Mr Chivvito said the future of the guerrillas at the assembly area would depend on the result of the election, but he expected they would stay. "We will carry out the orders we are given by our leaders," he said.

The Australians have set up their headquarters in the chapel of the abandoned American Methodist mission station here. They are pulling out on Monday, when three British Royal Signals soldiers are expected to join Captain Pearce. Meanwhile, 12 rather nervous Rhodesian police moved to yesterday to begin establishing a Rhodesian presence.

The general opinion among election observers appears to be that the poll has been well organized and reasonably free and fair. A short statement issued by the 10-member British parliamentary group concluded that the results will fairly reflect the general wish of the Zimbabwe electorate.

Mr Smith thought that it some people had managed to vote twice without carrying false papers, but was saying that the staff were not always being sufficiently scrupulous in checking people's hands. He felt that if there had been any doubt voting it would have had a negligible effect on the overall outcome.

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# Vance-Gromyko talks may follow meeting with envoy

From David Cross Washington, Feb 29

Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, today met Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador here, amid reports of a possible meeting between Mr Vance and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

If such a meeting takes place it will be the first face-to-face encounter between top American and Soviet officials since Russian troops moved into Afghanistan.

A State Department spokesman would only say that today's talks in Washington focused on "matters of mutual interest, including Afghanistan".

When a summit meeting comes about would depend on events, he added.

There have been several indications here in recent days that the Administration is interested in joining its Western allies in opposing the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. However, the Administration has made it clear that a withdrawal of Soviet troops would be a precondition for such a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

Moreover, the Administration here remains sceptical about various signals from Moscow which have suggested to some people that the Soviet leadership is interested in some kind of negotiated settlement.

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interested in "a propaganda exercise in which ideas are floated as a substitute for action, in which proposals are put forward to disguise what is happening is not a draw-down (reduction) of troops but a consolidation of troops for a build-up."

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# Afghanistan plan outlined to Mr Lunkov

By Michael Kaip

Mr Nikolai Lunkov, the Soviet Ambassador, visited the Foreign Office yesterday and was given an outline of Lord Carrington's proposals that Afghanistan be declared a neutral area.

The visit took place at British request and the ambassador was seen by Sir Michael Palfrey, the Permanent Under-Secretary, and Sir Donald Maitland, his deputy.

It is believed to be one of a number of bilateral approaches being made to the Soviet Union and to Afghanistan's neighbours by the nine European Community countries whose foreign ministers adopted the neutralization proposal last week.

A Foreign Office spokesman said Mr Lunkov made no comment on the proposal but would be conveying it to the Kremlin.

Meanwhile, senior officials of the EEC are continuing their discussions in Rome to work out details of the plan which it is hoped will open the way for a withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan in return for guarantees of non-interference.

The EEC members are apparently under no illusion that the negative response to the neutrality idea expressed in Delhi on Thursday by India, Yugoslavia and Algeria.

It appears to result from the emphasis in the proposal to "neutrality" rather than to "non-alignment". Britain initially steered clear of the term non-alignment which has been discredited by the Cuban and Vietnamese examples.

The event was the blandest. Mr Carrington, who had been in New Hampshire last weekend by refusing to let other candidates join the debate with him and Mr Reagan.

In the absence of ideological differences, this incident became a big campaign issue and three questions were asked about it by the journalists taking part in last night's forum. Mr Reagan confessed that he had probably erred in excluding the other candidates and that he would act differently if he had to do it again.

Mr Connally has raised more money than any other candidate. Although he did disastrously in New Hampshire, with only 2 per cent of the vote, he is counting on a strong showing in the South.

Despite support from some prominent Republicans here, the opinion polls still place him a distant third. He said in the debate that even if he is still

third at the time of the Detroit convention, he expects the voters to go to the polls and vote for him to win the nomination.

This must also be a consolation for Mr Reagan, who is finding it equally tough to make inroads into the left. Mr Connally was the aggressive last night in blaming his conservative credentials. He openly accused Bush of being a liberal and Reagan of having led what he called a "liberal trade union" during his Hollywood years.

This provoked Mr Bush into an angry rebuttal, pointing out that his union of actors formed to prevent the industry from coming under the control of "subversive communist elements".

If that was an uncomfortable reminder of the McCarthyism of southern Republicans, a group unlikely to hold against him.

# Rhodesia election reasonably 'fair'

Continued from page 1

troops will be pulled out on the following Saturday.

Mr Fenn said tribute to the outstanding role played by the Commonwealth forces in implementing the ceasefire.

He also said that Mr Nkomo is to visit the Rhodesia assembly tomorrow to consult with his forces and to instruct them to remain in their assembly areas after the results of this week's election are known.

Mr Muzenda was to have made a similar tour of Zambezi camps but this was postponed because of a strike by the Mozambique and Zimbabwean. The tour will instead be undertaken by Mr Simon Muzenda, the vice-president of Zanu (PF).

The announcement of the withdrawal plan for the month-long ceasefire came amid signs that the Rhodesian election, which was held during the three-day election, may be almost equivalent to 100 per cent of the estimated electorate.

Sir John Bingham, the election commissioner, said that by the close of the afternoon a total of 258,176 people had cast their votes and there were still four hours to go before polling stations closed.

However, despite the size of the turnout, the generally calm atmosphere in the camps, all three main parties made angry accusations about malpractices. Mr Edgar Tekere, the secretary-general of Zanu (PF), said the whole election had been "a fraud".

A similar charge was shared by Mr Willie Musarwa, the publicity secretary of the Patriotic Front, who said allegations of double voting had made the election a farce. Mr Ayong Kar, the secretary of the United African National Council (UANC), said the poll was a big joke and that the outcome would not reflect the true feelings of the people of the country.

The so-called "Coca Cola scandal" still loomed large over the election proceedings today. At a press conference, Mr Zvuvu, a Zanu (PF) member, said that the picture of a 10,000 people washing their hands with Coca Cola and other such substances, they could vote two, three or more times.

It has been alleged that Coca Cola removed the invisible dye which is put on voters' hands to prevent people from voting twice. However, tests carried out by Zanu (PF) and a group of journalists, as well as a massive public demonstration by the Rhodesian police, showed that while Coca Cola might remove some of the dye, it could not penetrate the cuticles and other crevices on the hand.

Sir John thought that it some people had managed to vote twice without carrying false papers, but was saying that the staff



## OVERSEAS

Report on riots is frankest, most soul searching official document ever produced in South Africa

## Soweto situation as explosive as in 1976, judge says

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, Feb. 29

In a single sentence a South African judge today issued a damning indictment of the dramatic new apartheid cause. Judge Cillie declared: "There is actually no way of accurately gauging race relations in the country." With that, his long-awaited report on the riots which broke out in Soweto, Johannesburg's black ghetto, in June, 1976, ended with a thud in Parliament in Cape Town.

Judge Cillie, the judge-president of the Transvaal, was appointed to hold a one-man commission of inquiry into the causes and effects of the 1976 riots which broke out eight days after police fired on demonstrating schoolchildren in Soweto.

His report covers a period of eight months till February 28, 1977. By then at least 575 people were dead, 3,907 had been injured and incalculable damage caused to Government and private property throughout the country.

**Blacks' bitterness**

The long delay in producing the report has become in fact a frequent question by the opposition and has never been explained satisfactorily. The judge completed his report in July, 1977, after recording more than 10,000 pages of evidence given by 553 witnesses.

Nevertheless, the report tabled in Parliament today by Mr. Alwyn Chabane, the Minister of the Interior, must be considered the frankest and most soul-searching document ever officially produced in South Africa.

Although Judge Cillie was not asked to make any recommendations he was in fact asked to state the situation in Soweto now is potentially as explosive as it was four years ago. He found that although children were being taken to the front-line of the riots, adults were investigators in almost every case.

"It was found that there was a marked deterioration in race relations," especially in the urban areas of the country, where youths to whites, the attitude of black adults, if changed in any way at all, would again returned to what was before the riots," the report states.

However, the judge notes that the attitude of whites towards blacks "has been more accommodating."

The root causes of the 1976 violence were bitterness and frustration among blacks about the use of African townships as

medium of education in black secondary schools, and the failure of both the education authorities and the police to heed the danger signals.

But there are no guilty men named in the report. Mr. Michael Buthe, then Minister of Bantu Education and Development, a department which was the unfortunate acronym B.A.D. has been restructured as the Department of a Community Development, has retired from public life.

Mr. Jimmy Kruger, the former Minister of Police, is now president of the Senate and outside the scope of parliamentary criticism because he cannot answer back, and Mr. Mulder, who was chairman of the West Rand Administration Board which controlled the lives of two million blacks in Soweto and other townships, has stepped down from office.

Mr. Mulder is remembered as the man who said one month before the Soweto explosion: "The people of Soweto are perfectly content, perfectly happy—there is no danger of a blow-up at all."

Judge Cillie reports that during the first two weeks of June Soweto pupils were already in open rebellion against the use of Afrikaans in their schools. Thousands were boycotting classes.

The mass march on June 16 was meticulously planned and organized by the action committee of the Soweto Students' Representative Council—one of 18 Black Consciousness movements later banned by Mr. Kruger. Thousands of pamphlets were distributed to advertise a mass meeting three days before the march yet the police, says the judge, remained ignorant of the brewing unrest even though the meeting was held "virtually within a stone's throw of a police station."

The march itself, when it took place, was illegal because permission to stage it had not been sought from the West Rand Administration Board.

The target was the Orlando West high school. It was the duty of the police, says the judge, to halt it and the immediate task fell on a squad of 40 black policemen and eight whites commanded by Colonel J. A. Kleingeld.

Outside the school the battle lines were drawn up 100 yards apart. Colonel Kleingeld shouted to the students to disperse. Their answer was a hail of stones. The police replied with a number of tear-gas canisters but only one exploded. The students hurled them back.

Judge Cillie reports: "Instead of subduing the youths, this ineffectual and clumsy attack only made them more determined."

Colonel Kleingeld called for reinforcements but they failed to turn up and he realized he and his men would have to fight their way out. Up to that point the police had not fired a shot.

The police broke through the ring of students with a baton charge. On their way through several policemen were badly injured and two police dogs were clubbed to death.

Colonel Kleingeld, says the judge, fired the first shot. He fired three shots over the heads of the crowd and the demonstrators followed by a burst of 20 rounds from an automatic rifle.

Then, says the report, several policemen opened fire without orders. The first to die, according to the judge, was Hastings Ndlovu, aged 17, shot dead by Sergeant M. J. Hanting as he charged him with a brick and a club.

Three years earlier, in a survey, he had warned of rising black antipathy among Soweto's senior pupils which he described as an "ominous danger signal for South Africa and for the Nationalist Government."

By nightfall at least 11 people had been killed and scores injured. The toll of mid-winter smog that covered Soweto was pierced by the light of flames from plundered and looted Administration Board offices, and boarded-down drink stores, clinics, banks, service stations, shops, schools, and dozens of vehicles.

Judge Cillie says that vagrants, criminals and vandals joined in the rampage. At the height of the ensuing chaos and disorder more adults than children were involved.

Within days the violence had spread—first to townships in the Johannesburg and Pretoria areas, then to Cape Town and the Western Cape province, and onwards to Port Elizabeth and the Eastern Cape. It flared sporadically in Durban and in the homelands. By February 28, 1977, Judge Cillie reports, the death toll was 575.

Throughout the country, the judge comments, there was a single underlying theme—solidarity with the Soweto students. Possibly some of the most trenchant comments in the entire report are the judge's remarks about the "revolting" people of the Coloured (mixed blood) people of the Western Cape.

"As a result of the unnatural separation of population groups enforced by a White government, the view developed that the White man had developed the Coloured as a friend and fellow citizen. Their former attraction (to the White man) was supplanted by resentment, frustration and disapproval," Judge Cillie reports.

"The Coloured then turned anti-white and examined faces of the black man's struggle. He joined the black community to remove his grievances and gain rights through joint struggle."

Collaborating the grim statistics of dead and injured was a difficult task, the judge says. "There were cases where people were reported dead and later found to be alive. Some people on the lists died of natural causes and others committed suicide. It is impossible to be 100 per cent sure."



Soweto, June 16, 1976.

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"As a result of the unnatural separation of population groups enforced by a White government, the view developed that the White man had developed the Coloured as a friend and fellow citizen. Their former attraction (to the White man) was supplanted by resentment, frustration and disapproval," Judge Cillie reports.

"The Coloured then turned anti-white and examined faces of the black man's struggle. He joined the black community to remove his grievances and gain rights through joint struggle."

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Of the 575 people killed between June 16, 1976, and February 28, 1977, 494 were blacks, 75 Coloureds, five whites and one an Indian. Of the total, 451 died "as a result of police action."

In Soweto, 262 people were killed—208 of them blacks and 54 Coloureds. In the Western Cape province 117 people were killed. Police action claiming the lives of 54 blacks, 53 Coloureds and one Indian.

Of the total of 575 people killed, 134 were aged under 18. Damage to property owned by the Bantu administration boards was estimated at 29.7m rand (\$18.5m). Private property losses were "virtually impossible to determine" but evidence to the commission put it at more than 10m rand (\$5.5m).

**Police never fired indiscriminately**

The police, says the judge, "did exceptionally well. It was never necessary to shoot at anyone, and this never happened."

It was, however, possible that a particular policeman, because of his personal state or specific circumstances, "overstepped the mark." But there was nothing in the evidence to warrant a finding of wilful and inadmissible assaults by members of the police force, the report states.

But officials of the Bantu Education Department do not get off as lightly. Judge Cillie found that they had "lost touch" with what was happening among the rebellious Soweto youth. "They were unable to warn the minister or secretary of the department of the threatening danger and could not provide important facts for replies to questions in Parliament."

"It is clear the officials' actions did not contribute in any way to preventing or retarding the riots," the judge states. But the problems which appeared so great in the few weeks before the eruption of violence were solved by the minister (Mr. M. C. Botha) "within a few days of June 16."

Judge Cillie notes that since the riots there have been changes but "if the commission were to discuss their efficiency it might amount to recommendations."

However, he notes that soon after the outbreak of riots changes were made about enforcing the teaching of school subjects in Afrikaans and it was announced that a start was to be made towards free, compulsory education. Black townships had been given more autonomy, there were plans to electrify Soweto, sports apartheid had been relaxed and theatres opened to blacks.

The judge says he had not tried to determine if these changes were a result of the riots.

The catalyst for the disturbances was the Bantu education system and particularly the Afrikaans issue. It developed quickly into a grievance against Afrikaans for particular blacks and whites in general. "From the beginning actions were taken against whites because they were white," the report states.

The judge declares: "In the South African scheme of things it is necessary that communication channels between blacks and those whites concerned with the black well-being are used regularly and in the right manner. This is no guarantee that discontent and rebellion will not occur but if these channels are not used it will be virtually impossible to avoid revolt."

A grim warning, underscored only two weeks after the findings of the Quill Commission, appointed by the Government of the Clarendon Homeland to investigate whether it should opt for full independence within four years, was the finding of South Africa in the Transvaal. It said no. Professor Lawrence Schlemmer of Natal University, a member of the commission, declared in an appendix that discontent and rebellion among blacks was possibly higher than at the end of 1976.

He found that 72 per cent of Xhosa, who form the bulk of the population, living on the Witwatersrand, and 71 per cent of Zulus, living in Soweto, were either unhappy or angry with life in general.

This was "extremely dangerous, particularly in a climate of rising expectation created by developments in Zimbabwe, Rhodesia," the professor concluded.

Leading article, page 15

## PARLIAMENT, Feb 29, 1980

## Abortion Bill beyond time limit: change made to its criteria

The third day of the report stage of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill will prove momentous and when proceedings on it resumed just after 2.30 pm, Mr. John Corrie (Ayrshire, North and Bute, C), its sponsor, asked for it to be set down again on March 15.

A closure motion having been successful, the House embarked on the first of what would have been a series of divisions, including amendment to delete Clause 4, 5 and 6 of the Bill. However, the Speaker (Mr. George Thomas) made clear that under the rules of order there was only one time today for the House to vote on the amendment removing power from the Secretary of State for Social Services to lower the upper time limit for abortions was carried.

Earlier in the day MPs resumed consideration of a group of amendments, including the subject of "serious" or "substantial" from the criteria a doctor would have to observe in deciding whether or not to terminate a pregnancy.

The Bill, as then drafted, required the doctor to consider whether the risk to the woman's life or health was physical or mental health would be substantially greater than if the pregnancy was terminated.

After a closure motion was carried, the amendment to leave out the word "serious" was carried by 201 votes to 149. The amendment to leave out the word "substantial" was rejected by 180 votes to 177.

Mr. John Corrie (Ayrshire, North and Bute, C) the sponsor of the Bill, then moved an amendment to delete the power to lower the upper time limit.

The amendment was in his name and the vote was 149 to 201. Mr. Corrie said that if the limit was to be lowered, it was possible in the near future that it might have to be done by further legislation.

He then discussed an amendment also being considered to ensure that it would not be an offence for a doctor to carry out an abortion if two doctors felt it was necessary to preserve a woman's life or prevent grave physical or mental injury. The amendment would also allow an abortion if there was a substantial risk that a child born would suffer from serious physical or mental handicap. It also would allow the opinion of two doctors to be dispensed with in some cases.

He said he wanted to help to protect those who had gone over the time limit. He was thinking of a handicapped child, someone who did not realise she was pregnant or a terrified young girl who had not come forward.

If (he said) you have an upper time limit, you must provide for exceptions. The House should come to a conclusion on the Bill so that MPs knew where they stood.

Mr. David Steel (General Leith, Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles) said that Mr. Corrie had a bit of a nerve saying it was time the House came to a decision on these matters in 1967. This was the third or fourth time he had brought forward an attempt to change the basis of the decision the House came to in 1967.

To give the abortion were not issues on which many people were likely to change their minds one way or another. His criticism of the Bill since 1967 was that they had been launched on the House under the guise of supporting the administration of the 1967 Act, whereas they were designed to undermine the very basis of that Act.

There was growing strength, under the slogan of "Women's choice" or "Women's right" that abortion was a matter for women to decide upon, that there should be a minimum of legislation governing the matter, that abortion should be available at the request of a woman.

The basis of the law in 1967 was simple. It was decided that abortion should be a woman's choice.

A girl seeking housing accommodation went to Wandsworth Council with a doctor's certificate that she was pregnant and had a right to a doctor's certificate to prove that. They went ahead of those in the queue living in conditions as bad or worse.

Mr. Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge, C) said that local authorities with a port of entry must have a local connection. Mr. Geoffrey Finsbury, Under Secretary for Environment (Camden, Hampstead, C) said that the Government would soon conduct a review of the working of the Act in the light of the experience of the last two years. They had just received the last contribution from the local authorities and organisations.

He could not respond in detail to the points raised because that would prejudice the outcome of the review.

Subject to any court decision, it appeared to him that if an authority were satisfied that collusion was involved, they might be entitled to conclude that those concerned were not homeless or were intentionally homeless.

There was evidence that many homeless were entitled to be on waiting lists or were already on them. The Act did not require local authorities to provide council accommodation for every case.

It was clear from returns by local authorities that arrivals from overseas formed a small proportion of the total number accepted under the Act.

The Government would be looking for an answer which combined the need for a humane solution with proper safeguards against deliberate exploitation.

House adjourned, 3.7 pm.

criminal offence where any two doctors considered it was in the interests of their patient that it should be carried out.

This Bill had gone off the rails. The House should take a much firmer stand and when the next Bill came forward they should stop it at second reading.

Mr. Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman of social services (Salisbury, Wiltshire, C) said the Bill had made matters far worse. The last minute suggestion by Mr. Corrie would result in the deletion of large sections of the Bill and made matters far worse.

He regretted that the House could not come to a suitable compromise. The Bill should be left as it was and the House should not proceed to give this Bill a third reading.

Mr. David Evans (Norwich, North, C) said he hoped a fortnight ago that it would have been possible to agree and have a Bill on the statute book accepting 24 weeks. But the sponsor or those behind him had not been prepared for there to be a compromise.

The Alan Glyn (Windsor and Maidenhead, C) said he was one of those who had wanted to see a change in the time limit, and any compromise in the Bill would have been a disaster. But the promoter of the Bill had not been sufficiently forthcoming in the House to encourage stage. If the Bill did fail, there was only one person to whom that failure could be attributed—the promoter.

Mr. Ian Mearns (Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow, Lab) said: "The wording of the Bill must be clearly and unambiguously comprehensible as it could be and he hoped provisions providing for exceptions would be carefully looked at."

A doctor might be put in a situation in which he had to make a clinical judgment and he had great respect for the doctor's judgment on the basis of good faith and his knowledge and experience could land him in a small trap over the validity of his clinical judgment would be decided by people who had no clinical training.

There must be some provision for exceptions in emergency cases, cases of abnormality and where the mother's life was seriously endangered.

Mr. Douglas Hogg (Grantham, C) said he supported the Bill on second reading and he had great sympathy for those who opposed the concept of abortion. Their motives were honourable. But he could not support the Bill as it stood at present and he hoped a major change had been made to the statutory criteria.

A major change in the statutory criteria would make it more difficult for the poorer and less sophisticated women to achieve an abortion. Any attempt to reform the 1967 Act which involved rewording the statutory criteria would fail.

Miss Oonagh McDonald (Thurrock, Lab) said that whereas almost all opponents of the Bill were prepared to accept the reduction of the upper time limit to 24 weeks, that was the only thing they were prepared to accept.

She was not prepared to accept any further alteration of any kind to the 1967 Act, because, unlike the sponsor, they did not believe it gave abortion on demand. The 1967 Act might not command the support of a majority of the Commons, but it had the support of the majority of the people.

After she had been speaking for the supporters of an 18-week abortion was carried by 186 votes to 158—majority 28.

The amendment to take away from the Secretary of State the power to lower the upper time limit was carried by 174 votes to 149 votes—majority 25.

The report stage was adjourned.

## Demands for changes in homeless Act

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There was evidence that many homeless were entitled to be on waiting lists or were already on them. The Act did not require local authorities to provide council accommodation for every case.

It was clear from returns by local authorities that arrivals from overseas formed a small proportion of the total number accepted under the Act.

The Government would be looking for an answer which combined the need for a humane solution with proper safeguards against deliberate exploitation.

House adjourned, 3.7 pm.

## Ganges proves fruitless

From Our Own Correspondent, Delhi, Feb. 29

India and Bangladesh today ended three days of fruitless talks here on ways to control the flow of the river. The date has been set for the resumption of the talks.

The 1977 Farakka agreement made provision for "seasonal storage on the river" to be used for irrigation in the West Bengal Government is expected to be completed in 1979.

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# Saturday Review

## Looking back at Bloomsbury

by Michael Holroyd

Lytton Strachey was born on March 1, 1880, and died at the age of 51—unusually young for a Strachey. Eminent Victorians, published in 1918, had made him suddenly famous; and although success suited him it probably took the edge off his ambition. Despite his classic life of Queen Victoria, many of his contemporaries would have given him a better chance of reaching a hundred than they would his reputation of being buoyant in this century year.

Strachey's reputation has always been controversial. The first publication in *The Times* in January, 1972, of his essay on Asquith (which had been written in the week *Eminent Victorians* appeared and was conceived almost as a postscript to that book) was followed by a peppering of indignant letters, like an echo of the resounding press comment of over 50 years before. If fame, as Dr Johnson suggested, is a shuttlecock that needs determined opposition from enemies to keep it in lively contention, then the polemic of *Eminent Victorians*, followed by the perfectly constructed romanticism of *Queen Victoria* and the experiment in melodrama of *Elizabeth and Essex* proved a fine combination of shots to keep the rally going.

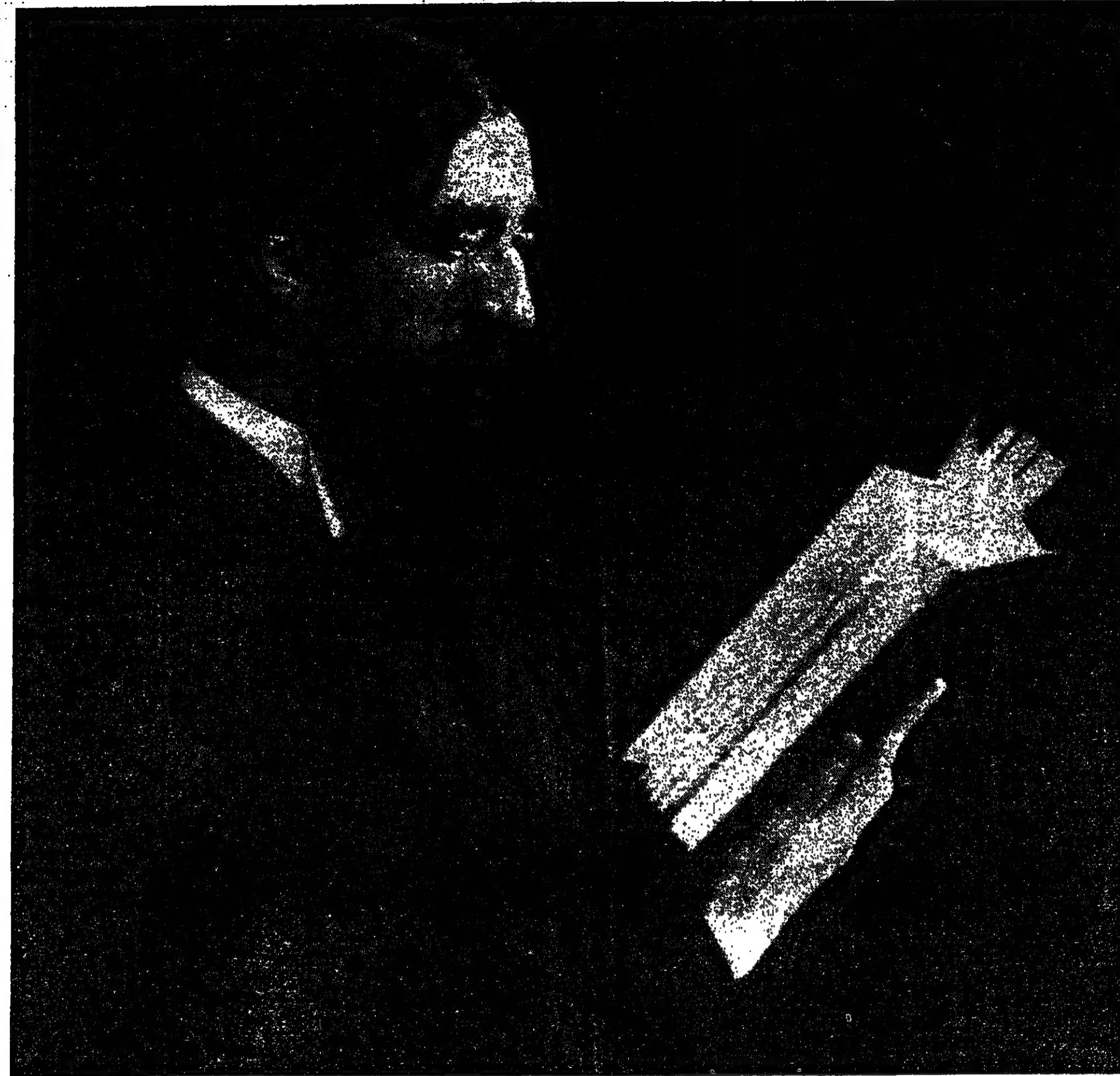
Though anyone could join in (particularly from the Wyndham Lewis/Geoffrey Grosse gang), the main opposition to Strachey came from Dr Leavis with his band of *Scrutiny* contributors, and from a succession of university historians culminating with Hugh Trevor-Roper. Their objections to Strachey's work centred on his inexactness of language and of fact, and on the false moral basis from which this sentimental inexactness arose. So formidably did they press home their attack in the decades following his death that his reputation appeared to have been exploded. Yet there are particular dangers in attacking an ironist, and a number of unforgotten errors were made of the sort we had been taught to define as Stracheyesque: that is, of setting up a caricature puppet of your adversary and, having knocked it down, declaring the adversary dead.

His defence, which for years had been modestly kept alive by Max Beerbaum, Lord David Cecil and other men of letters, with spirited surges from a miscellany of distinguished writers from Cyril Connolly to Nigel Dennis, came to rest on an interesting revaluation by Noel Annan who, plotting the ways of Bloomsbury against the Fabians, analysed Strachey's cultural as well as his literary influence of which he concluded: "it is certainly not as a historian that Strachey will continue to exist, but as a biographer."

In the history of twentieth century biography Strachey's precarious place is secure. Except for the odd example, such as Dr Piers Brendon's recent *Eminent Victorians*, academic biographers today do not follow Strachey's example, but they acknowledge the vital work he did in retrieving the art of biography from the social and sexual blight of Victorianism. In their acknowledged, however, can often be heard a shrill if only this essential job could have been done by someone else! Strachey, who claimed that "discretion is not the better part of biography", was in his fashion a disreputable figure as Boswell.

Lurking in the minds of some biographers is a suspicion that the genre would have emerged more substantially from the shadow of history and been counted as a valuable part of literature (rather than of journalism) if its earlier luminaries—wandering Isaac Walton, that odd goose John Aubrey, the gossiping Boswell and the giggling Strachey—had been more (there is no avoiding the word) eminent. Yet when left to respectable gentlemen who treated it (like a peerage) as the reward for public service, biography languished for over a century in the valley of piers. It seems a paradox that it should have finally come of age under the tutelage of such an enfant terrible as Robert Graves, who accused Strachey of having replaced the pious rhetoric of the Victorians with a Bloomsbury snigger and of having betrayed some of the first principles of biography, was still obliged to conclude in his recent book *The Nature of Biography* that "Strachey, no good biographer has dared to be less than an artist. Biography designed as literature derives mainly from him."

The renewal of interest in Strachey—that may be charged from the courageous publication by Chatto and Windus at the end of the 1940s of his *Selected Works*, followed in the 1960s and 1970s by a series of uncollected writings, the appearance of his biography by first as Collins Classics and then as Penguin Modern Classics, their various editions, and his inclusion in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, is a



Lytton Strachey, photographed by E. O. Hopper

and work by Gabriel Merle—comes as part of a tide of interest in the whole Bloomsbury group. The rising tide began in the 1950s with the publication of Leonard Woolf's five-volume autobiography, supported by three volumes from David Garnett and two from Gerald Brenan.

The most valid part of what by 1980 has swelled into a Bloomsbury flood, on which supply rides higher than demand, continued this autobiographical course, often in the form of diaries and letters (those of Carrington, Roger Fry, Mark Gertler, Frances Partridge, Virginia Woolf, or books written from within Bloomsbury, such as Quentin Bell's sympathetic and well-balanced biography of his aunt Virginia Woolf. But by 1975 Quentin Bell was asking: "Dear Reader, haven't you had enough?" There have been too many books and books (I have heard) that are too long. But a distinction should be made between works for which there is still a genuine need, such as Robert Skidelsky's forthcoming *Life of Maynard Keynes*, and those peripheral publications, represented by that legendary hypothesis *The Wit and Wisdom of Susan Strachey-Turner* (two volumes).

The paintings of the group (chronicled by Richard Stoker) show that some of the best work of Duncan Grant, Vanessa Bell and Roger Fry (as well as of Carrington, Mark Gertler and Henry Lamb), whether in landscape, portraiture or decoration, was also autobiographical in inspiration. But autobiography, in which English literature is particularly rich, has slipped so far out of sight between "creative" fiction and poetry, and "important" history and literary criticism, that it is seldom seriously considered either on the literary scene or in the English curriculum at universities. Perhaps its future would have been different if Dr Johnson had not destroyed the incomplete narrative of his life. The standard denigration of Bloomsbury is partly bound up with this academic neglect of autobiography, for it seems possible that the recently published memoirs, correspondence and journals of Bloomsbury will come to be judged more the group's finest achievement.

Virginia Woolf in her letters often wrote much like the first of the two quotations from *The Letters of Virginia Woolf* and *The Letters of Leonard Woolf* which I have

tional comedies we might have had."

This late-flowering and partly posthumous Bloomsbury cynic writes a book about directing attention to their lives as well as to their work (what would now be called their "lifestyle"). has focused interest back on the cultural analysis begun by Noel Annan in the 1950s and recently taken up by Paul Levy in his interesting study of the Bloomsbury guru G. E. Moore. Annan had argued that the First World War seemed to have severed the 1920s from the past.

"The profound emotional impact of the horror and slaughter convinced many that the values which held good before the war must now, by definition, be wrong—if indeed they were not responsible for causing the war. A society which permitted such a catastrophe to occur must be destroyed, because the presuppositions of that comfortable pre-war England were manifestly false. Searching for a new way in which to regard conduct, the twenties came to see it through the eyes of either Mrs Webb or Mrs Woolf."

Or, as I cast it, of Mr Shaw versus Mr Strachey. The distinction between Bloomsbury and the Fabians is partly one of chronology: Shaw was a Victorian; Strachey, the son of a Victorian. The quarter of a century between their births helps to explain a difference in tone as well as in the content of their work.

Shaw, who was alive when Darwin's *Origin of Species* first appeared and felt a lifelong need of some religious structure with which to replace the old gent with a heard, laboured to make scientific discoveries part of our religious equipment; Strachey, who announced that the religious motive had slipped quietly out of modern life, attacked (in the person of Cardinal Manning for example) a wordy religion of success that sprang from the self-deception of attributing our own wishes to the deity. In the business of replacing deception with truth, it was Shaw who, as an anonymous contributor to *The Pall Mall Gazette*, called for the revolution in biography that Strachey was to lead more than thirty years later. "The truth is that queens, like other people, can be too good for the sympathies of their little fellow-creatures," he wrote in 1886.

A few faults are indispensable to a really popular

monarch... if the Royal Jubilee is to be a success, the sooner some competent cynic writes a book about her Majesty's shortcomings the better. With her merits we are familiar, and may expect to be more so before the last Jubilee bookmaker has given the throne a final coat of whitewash. That the Queen, if no longer actually hedged with divinity, is yet more than merely human in the eyes of many of us, is made plain by the sacredness which trivial things assume when touched by the Royal hand... When a tornado devastates an American province it is chronicled in a quarter of a column. Yet were a gust of wind to blow off our Sovereign's head-gear tomorrow "The Queen's Bonnet" would crowd Bulgaria out of the papers."

But by the time Strachey wrote his *Queen Victoria*, Shaw had himself become an old gent with a beard, wistfully reminding us that "when you read a biography remember that the truth is never fit for publication." The pessimism implied by such an observation may obliquely reflect his sense of failure in permeating British society with the truth of Fabianism. Of the two strongest influences in the twentieth century, Marx and Freud (one who referred everything to external, the other to internal causes), Shaw was attracted (via Henry George) to Marx; Strachey, who had been so carried away by *Principia Ethica* as to date "the beginning of the Age of Reason" from its publication in 1903, later moved (via Dostoevsky) to Freud who became the chief influence behind *Elizabeth and Essex*. Freud had been comically dismissed by Shaw as "an utterly without delicacy." For to the Fabians this Moore-Freud axis appeared disastrous: "that way madness lies" warned Beatrice Webb who claimed to find nothing in Moore's *Principia Ethica* "except a metaphysical justification for doing what you like." What the Fabians distrusted was the sexual emancipation pioneered by the Apostles at Cambridge and taken up by the Bloomsbury group during the early years of this century. Strachey, for instance, had turned the nineteenth century aesthetic cult of homosexuality into a twentieth century weapon of revolt. But the Fabians believed that it was the political, not sexual, mores of Victorianism from which we needed to cut loose.

Sex, in their view, was primarily a matter of economics. Shaw, who retrospectively associated *Heartbreak House* with Virginia Woolf, because, he misremembered, "I conceived it in that house somewhere in Sussex where I first met you", employed a molecular Bloomsbury structure in that play to depict a morally bankrupt society drifting towards war. Politically nothing had changed: "The same nice people, the same utter futility."

In his judgment, Bloomsbury's failure lay in not helping to dismantle the British class system. But as his attempted portrait of Strachey in *Village Waking* confirms, he knew little of the individual members of Bloomsbury and in *Heartbreak House* portrays a society that has perhaps more in common with the Oxford Souls than with a circle with its provenance in Cambridge. Though E. M. Forster posed the riddle of friendship versus country, it was the Oxford Union that went on to vote against fighting in a second world war.

Personal relationships plus aesthetic sensibility equals the good life: that was Strachey's Bloomsbury formula. Beatrice Webb feared that the intellect and character of the younger Fabians might be perverted by such anarchic ways; but Shaw decided that they were wonderfully immune from permeation (or, in Bloomsbury terms, seduction) by reason of their philistinism. The arts and the cult of personal relationships withered in the impersonal Fabian atmosphere where Shawian socialism was nurtured by the concentrated formula: equality of income plus abolition of private property. This socialism had little to do with the politics of the Labour Party which, Shaw argued, had become a trade union party slugging out a new version of the old capitalist class war with the employers' party, the Conservatives. Shaw's philosophy was wholly remote from the literary members of Bloomsbury such as Strachey or Virginia Woolf who thought that poets were the unacknowledged legislators of the world and that Shaw, though publicly acknowledged to an unenvying degree, was no poet. But was he a prophet? Leonard Woolf (also by this standard no poet) reckoned Shaw's impact on ordinary people to have been tremendous and criticized Virginia's literary attitude as narrow. The second generation of Bloomsbury, some of whom

founded (as had Leonard Woolf) their poetry in politics, were themselves influenced by Shaw.

"I only wish they didn't both think Bernard Shaw greater than Shakespeare," Virginia Woolf complained of her nephews Julian and Quentin in 1927. But by then the choice proposed by Noel Annan had been settled largely in favour of Bloomsbury: it was primarily a sexual not a political revolution that Britain enjoyed in that decade.

The Fabian disenchantment with Britain may be measured by the extent to which they subsequently focused their optimism abroad, particularly on Soviet Russia. Shaw visited Russia in 1931 and declared: "It is here in Russia that I have actually been convinced that the new Communist system is capable of leading mankind out of its present crisis, and save it from complete anarchy and ruin." The Webbs, who went to Russia in 1932, decided they had seen "a new civilization and new culture—all of which I believe is destined to spread." Beatrice wrote, "owing to its superior intellectual and ethical fitness."

In his Courtauld lecture "From Bloomsbury to Marxism" tracing the dominant movements of this time, Anthony Blunt dated the arrival of Marxism in Cambridge and within the Cambridge Apostles at 1933. The Fabian programme of permeation had had little effect on orthodox politics partly because Fabians such as Sidney Webb possessed such meagre political instinct, and partly because their method, though given wit and sophistication by Shaw, were so crushingly unappealing. If Beatrice Webb had only served more food and drink at her political uncles the whole course of British politics might have been changed. As it was, almost the only people reasonably sympathetic to the Fabian programme seemed to be those who (again like Leonard Woolf) were almost as ascetic as the Webbs themselves.

The thesis and antithesis of Mrs Webb and Mrs Woolf, or of Mr Shaw and Mr Strachey, had by the 1930s produced the synthesis of the double agent: a species of man turned inside out between the internal and external influences of Freud and Marx. What Shaw's Fabians and Strachey's Bloomsbury had shared was a compelling interest in power without the capacity for action. Both Shaw and Strachey tried to

after the future by looking at the past and settling the temporary history on the permanent. But in an age when political illiteracy was appealing for the part only to other intellectuals who found a way of combining private with public, sexual with political, radical with conservatism with individualism, not through indoctrination, but through action but by entering politics themselves. Under cover it was less a classical synthesis between the disciplines of life than the romantic living of a double life. This solution, though it might have appealed to their sense of irony, would have satisfied neither Shaw nor Strachey.

In arriving at such a paradoxical formula it is important to see how the demarcation lines between the Fabians and Bloomsbury had been shifting. For example, the instinctive hostility felt by the inwardly incorruptible G. E. Moore in the 1890s for one of the early Fabian musketeers, Graham Wallas, and cited by Paul Levy as an instance of the incompatibility between the two groups, becomes in no time at all an antipathy in Graham Wallas, the leading exponent of new liberalism, with which Leonard Woolf was to be associated over the League of Nations.

In all the comment and analysis of the Blunt affair, though there was no mention of Shaw and the Webbs as the leading apostles in Britain of Soviet Russia, much was carefully attributed to the Cambridge Apostles, Strachey and Keynes (who in fact depicted the religion of communism among the young) largely because, like Anthony Blunt, they were homosexual.

Yet it had been the replacement of sexual by economic politics that had created this curious intellectual atmosphere of the 1930s. The process had been caused by an infiltration of second generation Bloomsbury and those partly sympathetic to Bloomsbury by the Fabian ethic. Here was the revenge by men of letters and artistic imagination against a closed system of power politics that had branded them all as politically redundant.

The frustrated Shaw, who had tried for many years on innumerable occasions to work our democratic machinery effectively, was translated into a dangerous respect for strong men, such as Stalin, who got things done. Strachey's involvement with power, which like Shaw was an assertion of power, is less obvious because it took the form of an assertion of ambitious men and women already dead, and because his assault lost impetus, once his own literary ambitions began to be fulfilled. In *Eminent Victorians* he had pulled down the powerful from their high places; and in *Portraits in Miniature* he misrepresents the time of life—poetries and antiquaries by circumstances into dead shapes—and treated them with humorous tenderness. Strachey dealt almost exclusively with the past. But some of his contemporaries (as I tried to show in a biography of Augustus John) were a miscellaneous crew of anarchists, explorers, magicians, metaphysicians, bimetallists, agrarians, social creditors that understandably does not crop up in Noel Annan's survey of the 1920s. It was a Falstaff's army of scattered and leaderless, that seemed to have strayed into the twentieth century by accident and be parading up a cul-de-sac. Since the current of modern movement did not pass in their direction, they were left, shallow, stranded, and politically weightless.

Among literary figures, perhaps their best representation in early days was C. K. Chesterton, whose such an obsessive hatred of the professional politician that when asked what he would do if made Prime Minister, he said: "I resign at once." A man of vast range, Chesterton, a nurse of an endearing kind in smallness. *The Distributist League*, which attempted to translate his simple view of life and a bit of land have a home and a bit of land into the creation of a prosperous society and the achievement of social justice through the proprietorship, had no chance of succeeding at a time when everything was beginning to be bigger and more remote. He was a populist, speaking in a democracy, who could find no effective voice before the microphone of new mass media held in Westminster. Such people as Chesterton were the true descendants of William Morris who had been considered a radical because he was many of his contemporaries because of his distasteful parliamentary politics, but who in retrospect sounds like a sane man. In the years before the First World War, Strachey had begun to tear off from Bloomsbury and to follow the knockabout Bohemianism of Mr Shaw and Mr Strachey, had by the 1930s produced the synthesis of the double agent: a species of man turned inside out between the internal and external influences of Freud and Marx. What Shaw's Fabians and Strachey's Bloomsbury had shared was a compelling interest in power without the capacity for action. Both Shaw and Strachey tried to

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## Radio Reacting to events

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## PERSONAL CHOICE

Gwyneth Jones and Sir Colin Davis in tonight's *St David's Day* concert from Ebbw Vale (BBC 2, 8.40)

● It would set the seal on the day if Wales were to thrash Scotland today (BBC 1, 2.25 and Radio 2 at 2.20). But, despite what the thousands at Cardiff Arms Park might think, there is more to St David's Day than rugby and today's programmes to some way towards proving it. There are two hours of Welsh singing from the Royal Festival Hall (Radio 2, 4.30 pm) a concert by the Parc and Dare Brass Band (Radio 3, 11.15 am), the first in a new series about Welsh choirs (Radio 4, 4.30 pm) featuring the Newtown High School for Girls Group. And, on television, there is Welsh soprano Gwyneth Jones, fervently flanked by the Dyfed Choir and the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra in the steel town of Ebbw Vale.

● Mighty waves of scorn and praise broke over Holocaust when it was first shown on BBC Television two years ago. So it seems pointless to re-start the old argument about whether this story of the Nazi persecution of the Jews should ever have been made. Suffice it to say, then, that all four episodes are being shown again, beginning tonight (BBC 2, 9.40) and that for the benefit of anyone who might be coming to the series for the first time, I must tell them that this is a account of two families, one Jewish and the other Nazi, and the appalling consequences that flow from their relationship at a time when Hitler had found his final solution.

● A second collection of Anglia TV thrillers, *Tales of the Unexpected*, begins tonight (ITV, 10.00) with a story in which Timothy West, that actor for all seasons and all broadcasting channels, plays a man obsessed by bees. I thought the first collection variable in quality, with eminent performers sometimes providing little more than expensive-looking window dressing. But there were the undeniable frissons, especially in that tale of the landlady who picked her favourite lodgers. Of the 16 stories in the new batch, 12 are by Roald Dahl who introduces all 16.

● Cheryl Campbell, whose performance in the BBC Television series *Testament of Youth* (as Vera Brittain) and *Pemiles from Heaven* (the schoolmistress turned prostitute) you are unlikely ever to forget, stars in tonight's Saturday Night Theatre production *Other Days Around Me*, by Frederick Brundage (Radio 4, 8.30). It is a drama about loss of memory... The D. H. Lawrence festival continues with a discussion (Radio 3, 9.15) about the value of the writer's vision for our time. It's between Frank Kermode, Claire Tomalin and Jeff Nuttall. Tomorrow (Radio 4, 9.05) a new serialisation of *Women in Love* begins, starring Sarah Badel and Peter McEnery.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: (T) TELEVISION; (R) RADIO; (C) REPEAT.

## PERSONAL CHOICE

Daniel Murrey as Oliver and David Swift as Fagin in *The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist* (ITV, 5.00)

● With Nancy fatally battered, Sykes separated from his brains, Monks translated to Hell, Fagin in the condemned cell, the Bumbles paraded and Oliver adopted, what more is there left to say except Fins? A great deal more, it seems, for David Butler has written a 13-part follow-up, and you can see episode 1 tonight (ITV, 5.00). What Mr Butler has done is to needle out some strands from Dickens's rich tapestry and work them back in again, in a modified pattern. Monks is resurrected, Fagin looks all set for a new lease of life and Oliver cannot be adopted until his papers are found. It all sounds like a recipe for a TV disaster. But, to be fair, it isn't all that bad. Not yet, anyway.

● A word of warning if you suffer from claustrophobia: there are two BBC 1 films you should not watch today. *Morning Departure* (2.00), has a dozen men trapped in a submarine 90ft down. Hanging by a thread (7.15) has a similar number of people trapped in a cablecar. The latter we shall have to take on trust.

● And so *The Lost Boys* moves to its sad, sad conclusion (BBC 2, 10.30). The images it has imprinted on my memory will prove indelible. But there is now a tangible and permanent way in which the power and beauty of Andrew Birkin's screenplays have been preserved. They have been published, in a single volume, by the BBC, containing all the dialogue (including excised passages), scene numbers, character descriptions, and many photographs, some taken by Mr Birkin himself. The book can be obtained (only by post) from BBC Publications, PO Box 234, London SE1 3TH. It costs £4.50, inclusive of post and packing.

● Tucked away in today's *Hullabaloo* programme for young listeners (Capital Radio, 5.30) is a little gem: a half-hour insight into the animal poems of Ted Hughes, with Mr Hughes himself and Anne Calder Marshall reading some of them. Mr Hughes and two teachers putting them into a helpful social and literary context and Michael Aspel behaving himself as link man. Priceless, surely, for O and A level students. The third of BBC Manchester's *Bestsellers* (Radio 4, 10.15) is *A Passage to India*. Francis Watson's script does cast some light into dark places, but the Marabar caves are allowed to keep most of their secrets.

## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davale

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

7.40 am Open University. Closedown at 8.30.  
9.05 Gymnast: Women's Floor Exercises (r).  
9.30 Multi-Coloured Swap Shop: See Noel Edmunds as a powerboat racer on the Solent. His studio guests include Rolf Harris.  
12.12 Weather.  
12.15 Grandstand: The line-up for 12.20 Bob Wilton on Football Racing from Newbury at 12.59, 1.25 and 1.55; International Badminton from Preston (Debenham's Challenge) at 1.10; Racing from Haydock at 1.40 and 2.10; International Rugby Union: Wales v Scotland from Cardiff Arms Park at 2.25, and France v Ireland at 4.00; Inter-

national Athletics (European Indoor Championships) at 4.20; Final Score at 4.40.  
5.15 Pink Panther Show: three cartoons.  
5.35 News with Peter Woods. 5.45 Sport.  
5.50 Wonder Woman: The theft of an ultra-secret laser crystal.  
6.30 *Top of the Pops*: Let two Scottish girls join a baggy hunt, all made possible by Jimmy Savile.  
7.10 All Creatures Great and Small: With foot-and-mouth spread to Mr Bailey's pedigree herd?  
8.05 The Little and Large Show: Comedy show with Syd Little and Eddie Large. With disco artistie Amanda Lear.  
8.40 Dallas: Anger boils over as the controversy about who is Sue Ellen's baby's father continues.

## BBC 2

7.40 am Open University, until 1.05. Then from 1.30 until 3.10.  
3.10 Film: *The Lion and the Horse* (1952): A story of a cowboy (Steve Cochran) who longs to own a magnificent black stallion which is sold to a travelling rodeo.  
5.35 *Chopsticks*: Comedy and music with Justin Case and Peter War. Their guests are Christopher Lillicrap and Amette.  
5.50 Mr Smith's Indoor Garden: How to cultivate mother-in-law's tongue, grass and geraniums (r).  
5.55 Open Door: The public's own

TV programme. All about a magazine called *Gutter*, about which little is known.  
5.55 Free to Choose: Another film by Milton Friedman, the American monetarist. The film was made in 1952, but is screened next Tuesday night (r).  
7.10 Film: *Brother Orchid* (1940): Gangster comedy with Edward G. Robinson. The comic inventor takes refuge in a monastery. Humphrey Bogart plays his rival. Very enjoyable.  
8.45 News and Sport.  
8.40 St David's Day Concert: Opera singer Gwyneth Jones and

3.30 News with Peter Woods.  
3.40 *Hatfield of the Day*: Highlights from two of today's big football games. With Jimmy Hill.  
18.40 Parkinson: His guests tonight are James Mason, James Blaise and Buddy Rich.  
11.40 Phil Spector as Sergeant Biko: Another story about the South African 'trickster'.  
12.05 Westminster.

## Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: Wales: 8.30 am News. 8.40 *Top of the Pops*. 9.05 *Top of the Pops*. 9.15 *Top of the Pops*. 9.25 *Top of the Pops*. 9.35 *Top of the Pops*. 9.45 *Top of the Pops*. 9.55 *Top of the Pops*. 10.05 *Top of the Pops*. 10.15 *Top of the Pops*. 10.25 *Top of the Pops*. 10.35 *Top of the Pops*. 10.45 *Top of the Pops*. 10.55 *Top of the Pops*. 11.05 *Top of the Pops*. 11.15 *Top of the Pops*. 11.25 *Top of the Pops*. 11.35 *Top of the Pops*. 11.45 *Top of the Pops*. 11.55 *Top of the Pops*. 12.05 *Top of the Pops*. 12.15 *Top of the Pops*. 12.25 *Top of the Pops*. 12.35 *Top of the Pops*. 12.45 *Top of the Pops*. 12.55 *Top of the Pops*. 1.05 *Top of the Pops*. 1.15 *Top of the Pops*. 1.25 *Top of the Pops*. 1.35 *Top of the Pops*. 1.45 *Top of the Pops*. 1.55 *Top of the Pops*. 2.05 *Top of the Pops*. 2.15 *Top of the Pops*. 2.25 *Top of the Pops*. 2.35 *Top of the Pops*. 2.45 *Top of the Pops*. 2.55 *Top of the Pops*. 3.05 *Top of the Pops*. 3.15 *Top of the Pops*. 3.25 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## ENTERTAINMENTS

Up to date at all times  
Students list before performance

## OPERA AND BALLET

**COVENT GARDEN** cc 01-330 1066  
Carmen, 7.30, 9.30, 11.30  
**THE ROYAL OPERA**  
The Royal Ballet, 7.30, 9.30, 11.30  
The Royal Ballet, 7.30, 9.30, 11.30

**ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA**  
The English National Opera, 7.30, 9.30, 11.30  
The English National Opera, 7.30, 9.30, 11.30

**COVENT GARDEN** cc 01-330 1066  
Carmen, 7.30, 9.30, 11.30  
The Royal Opera, 7.30, 9.30, 11.30

**THE ROYAL BALLET**  
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# Chess

## The game as an art

Quite a number of readers have informed me that last week's article was more incoherent than usual. I have to apologise for the undoubted facts that there seemed no connection between the first and second paragraphs and that the actual content of the piece was so slender. Space was very short and the article had to be cut, and thus it did not demonstrate what I am trying to achieve in my column. When I started the series back in 1966 I did it with the express purpose of demonstrating the relationship of chess with the other arts and I have pursued this objective ever since.

Note that such a course makes both the claim and the assumption that chess is an art and it behaves me to return to the well-worn but ever-fascinating controversy as to what chess really is, whether art, science, sport or game.

The easy answer is that it is a mixture of all four. But what has to be determined is which is the major constituent. For this purpose it is essential to define what an art is or, and this I think is the simpler approach, what an artist is.

An artist is someone who conceives and expresses ideas. He can do this in words if he is a writer; or in paint if he is a painter; or in notes of music if he is a composer; or in moves of chess if he is a chess-master.

To those ignorant of chess, and this obviously includes my xenian, this may comprise a such too high-flown view of chess. But anyone who knows enough about chess to play through and comprehend the wonderful games of Alekhine and Capablanca, of Botvinnik and Keres and of Tal and Fischer, to mention some of the great chess-masters of this century, must agree in classing them as great artists.

Even those who are not chess-players or possess the barest knowledge of the moves, will realise that chess is an art if they take the trouble to read such brilliant chess-writers as Richard Reti, Aron Nimzowitsch or Savely Tartakower. To some extent this artistry is obscured or even denied by the flood of technical books on chess that has afflicted us since the Second World War. But these are to a large extent books written by the ignorant

for the ignorant, designed to turn a quick penny and are so inferior to the works of the three writers I have mentioned as to be beneath all comparison. Reti, Nimzowitsch and Tartakower are true artists writing about a true art. Consider that passage in Reti's *Modern Chess* in which he describes the Viennese master, Carl Schlechter, which moved Desmond McCarthy to say that this was a poet speaking. He explains how Schlechter was influenced by nature and the countryside. "His games stand out through their breadth of scheme—just as in the forest the trunks of trees and their branches spread themselves out all sides wherever there are open spaces." He concludes the paragraph with "Thus one loses one's self in Schlechter's games as with the immediacy and simplicity of nature, the airiness of Viennese art and music."

The whole passage might well be the words that go with a great picture by one of the Post-Impressionists, by a Monet, by a Van Gogh. Similarly the blarney of a Nimzowitsch reminds one forcibly of the dazzling effects obtained by such a master of pointillism as Seurat. Tartakower's work on the other hand is more akin to that of the French writers of the eighteenth century and his "mistakes are all there, just waiting to be made" could easily have been written by Voltaire.

I could give instance upon instance to prove my point, but it, despite all, my argument is not admitted, if chess is merely a sport or a game or even a science, then I have wasted time and space here for the past 14 years.

Advice from my readers on this subject would be most welcome. I have got to that penultimate stage in my life when I can ill afford to throw away the 14 hours which was about the time I expended on each of my last week's What do you want to read? An article about the philosophy, beauty and artistry of chess or a technical appreciation of some aspect of the game, perhaps on the opening or the middle-game or on the endings?

It should be observed that if you choose the latter I shall save much time since I can turn out such an article in under half an hour; whereas I normally take three to four hours on my piece. Meanwhile here is a game of considerable artistry that was played in the International Tournament at Rio de Janeiro last year.

White: Porsich. Black:

Balashova. Q. P. Nimzowitsch

1. P-Q4 N-K3 2. N-B3 3. P-Q4 4. P-Q4 5. P-Q4 6. P-Q4 7. P-Q4 8. P-Q4 9. P-Q4 10. P-Q4 11. P-Q4 12. P-Q4 13. P-Q4 14. P-Q4 15. P-Q4 16. P-Q4 17. P-Q4 18. P-Q4 19. P-Q4 20. P-Q4 21. P-Q4 22. P-Q4 23. P-Q4 24. P-Q4 25. P-Q4 26. P-Q4 27. P-Q4 28. P-Q4 29. P-Q4 30. P-Q4 31. P-Q4 32. P-Q4 33. P-Q4 34. P-Q4 35. P-Q4 36. P-Q4 37. P-Q4 38. P-Q4 39. P-Q4 40. P-Q4 41. P-Q4 42. P-Q4 43. P-Q4 44. P-Q4 45. P-Q4 46. P-Q4 47. P-Q4 48. P-Q4 49. P-Q4 50. P-Q4 51. P-Q4 52. P-Q4 53. P-Q4 54. P-Q4 55. P-Q4 56. P-Q4 57. P-Q4 58. P-Q4 59. P-Q4 60. P-Q4 61. P-Q4 62. P-Q4 63. P-Q4 64. P-Q4 65. P-Q4 66. P-Q4 67. P-Q4 68. P-Q4 69. P-Q4 70. P-Q4 71. P-Q4 72. P-Q4 73. P-Q4 74. P-Q4 75. P-Q4 76. P-Q4 77. P-Q4 78. P-Q4 79. P-Q4 80. P-Q4 81. P-Q4 82. P-Q4 83. P-Q4 84. P-Q4 85. P-Q4 86. P-Q4 87. P-Q4 88. P-Q4 89. P-Q4 90. P-Q4 91. P-Q4 92. P-Q4 93. P-Q4 94. P-Q4 95. P-Q4 96. P-Q4 97. P-Q4 98. P-Q4 99. P-Q4 100. P-Q4 101. P-Q4 102. P-Q4 103. P-Q4 104. P-Q4 105. P-Q4 106. P-Q4 107. P-Q4 108. P-Q4 109. P-Q4 110. 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## Travel

## Half a million years of Chinese history

The recent political thaw in China has made it possible for those interested in the country's imperial and prehistoric past to visit sites and museums covering more than half a million years: the most recent development has been the opening of Choukoutien, the site of Peking Man, as an archaeological park. My journey this September and October spanned a mere 7,000 years of Chinese history, but even so we were kept busy from early morning until evening for nearly three weeks visiting rock-hewn Buddhist shrines, historic wooden temples more than a thousand years old, the ruined walls of China's ancient capitals and the scenes of recent and current excavations.

Our group was, admittedly, a specialized one, organized by the *Illustrated London News*, which has for more than a century given wide coverage to archaeology; the itinerary was worked out by the tour leader, Gina Corrigan of Study China Ltd., a London firm, to cover as many historic sites as possible, and the cooperation of the Chinese national travel service Lixinghe realized most of our hopes.

We flew into Peking several hours late, having been diverted via Bangkok because of an airport fire at Bombay, but found our Lixinghe guides waiting patiently for us. Each group is given a national guide for the whole trip around China, and is joined at each stop by a local guide who calls in turn upon the services of curators or attendants at the principal sites and museums. We had two national guides, Li Chao-su and Li Chao-chuan, both cheerful young men from Shanghai who spoke excellent idiomatic English and who proved, when they got to know us a little, willing to discuss almost any aspect of their country with us. In spite of the archaeological bias of the tour, modern China was not neglected—we visited a coal mine at Datong, a commune at Luoyang and a crafts factory at Zhengzhou, as well as the opera, cinema and concert hall.

Our time in Peking was restricted to three days, because the 30th anniversary of the People's Republic was coming up on October 1 and apparently every hotel bed in the capital was needed (we met an Australian group who had simply had Peking struck from their itinerary that week). Nevertheless, we managed to see quite

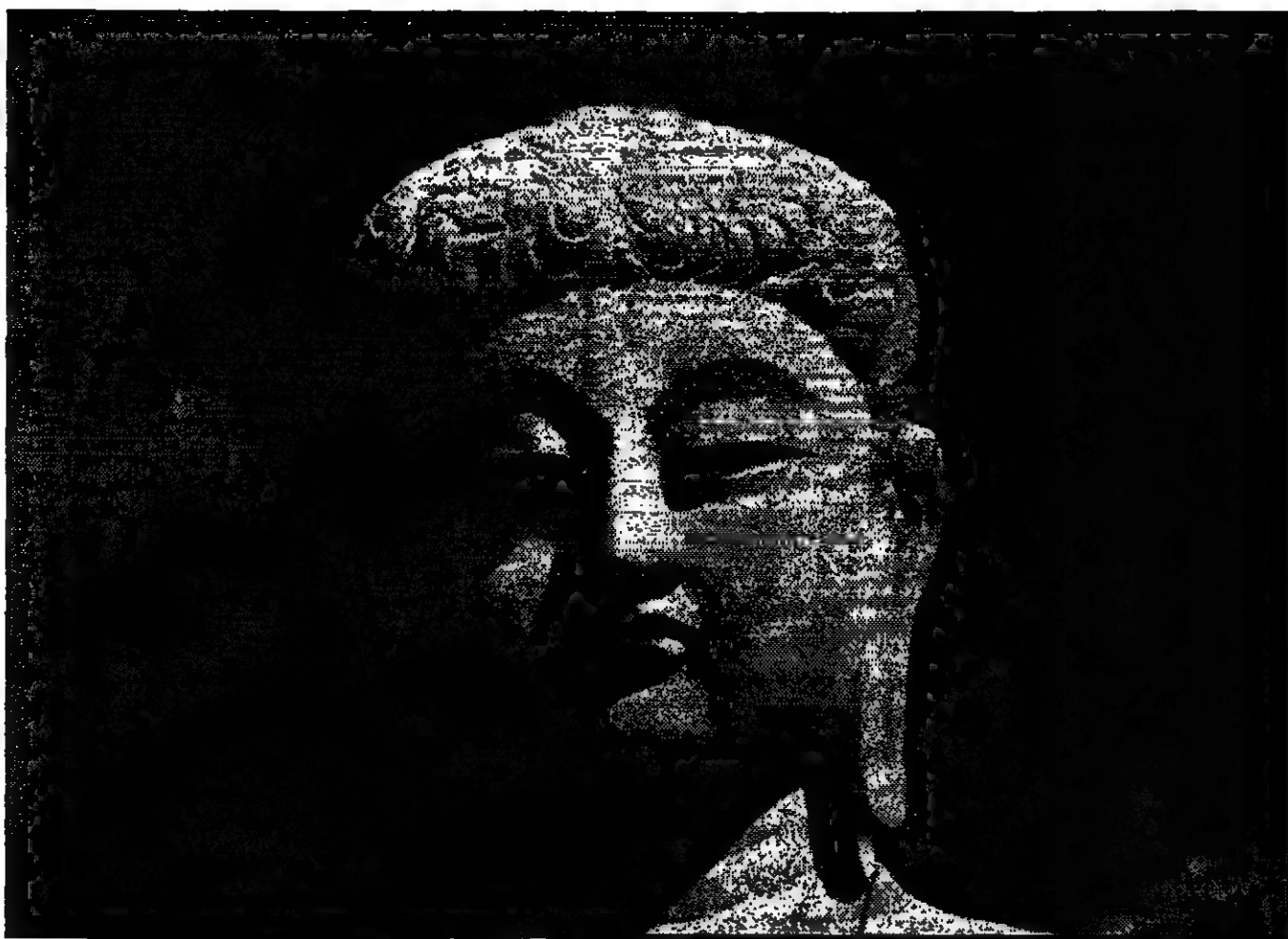
a lot, mainly of the two last dynasties of Imperial China, the Ming and Qing.

One entire day was spent in travelling by train north to Badaling, the station for the Great Wall, visiting the restored portion of the wall together with thousands of Chinese, and then seeing two of the Ming Tombs and the famous avenue of stone animals on the way back. One of the tombs, that of Wan Li (1572-1619) has been excavated: one descends a modern stair into the great vault where the emperor and his two wives were interred. The three marble thrones and their offertory vessels are still there, together with reconstructions of the coffins, but most of the treasures have been removed to Peking.

Other sites in Peking included the Temple of Heaven, another Ming structure restored under the Qing, the Forbidden City with its endless series of palatial courtyards, and the new Summer Palace of the Dowager Empress Tzu Hsi, on a lake outside the city. Peking also has the Museum of Chinese History, which is now freely open to foreigners (admission costs 10 fen, less than 5p) and which contains many important archaeological finds with extensive explanatory captions (in Chinese only), dioramas and reconstructions of life in primitive society, slave society and feudal society, the three major interpretative divisions of the Chinese past. Photography, as in almost all museums, is forbidden. Among the recent finds on display were a group of Shang bronzes and ivory carved in 1976, and two of the life-sized warrior figures from the tomb of the first emperor of unified China, Qin Shi Huang Ti, which we were to see later in the tour.

From Peking we took train 43 through northern Hebei, past the Great Wall again, westward into Shanxi. At one point the line runs close to the border of Inner Mongolia, which is aligned on the northern, outer loop of the Great Wall (the restored Badaling portion being on the inner loop), and by watching out carefully for its arrival, snaking down southwards over the mountains, we were able to see many miles of the unrestored wall.

Datong is very much an industrial town, with 13 coal mines in the vicinity and a locomotive works; our visit to



Face of the Buddha at the Luguang caves.

one of the mines was a fascinating respite from archaeology, but the *raison d'être* of the journey to Datong was to see the great Buddhist cave shrines at Yungang. When the Northern Wei established their capital at Datong they brought in Buddhism as a state religion, and one after another a series of caves was carved from the cliffs of Yungang and decorated with thousands of images of the Buddha ranging from less than two inches to more than 50 feet in height.

In the city of Datong itself are two of the earliest surviving wooden buildings in China, the halls of the Upper and Lower Sun Yan monasteries, built in the early twelfth century under the Liao dynasty. The lower hall still has the library of the Buddha in their original cupboards around the walls, and a single Buddhist monk survives, tending his garden in part of the compound.

From Datong we took train 201 southwards to Taiyuan, passing through the inner loop of the Great Wall again at Yangfangou. Taiyuan is a modern city in Chinese terms, founded on its present site in

the eleventh century after its predecessor, Jinyang, had been razed by a seat of dynastic power in the eleventh century B.C., when the Western Zhou established their capital just west of the modern city. After the Eastern Zhou move to Luoyang, further downriver, Xian became capital of the growing state of Qin, which in the third century B.C. conquered the rest of the Warring States under the leadership of Qin Shi Huang Ti.

His tomb, a vast man-made hill, rises from the Wei valley east of Xian and it is here that one of the most dramatic archaeological discoveries of the century has been made. In 1974 members of the Yan Zhai commune were digging a well some 14 miles east of the great tumulus when they came across a life-sized pottery figure of a warrior buried upright in the yellow earth 16 feet underground. He proved to be part of a great army of such figures, including archers, swordsmen and spearmen, cavalry and chariots drawn by pottery horses, drawn up facing eastwards to repel any threat the dead emperor. It is estimated

that more than 6,000 figures lie in the three great pits that have been located. China's most recent and most spectacular museum has been built over the largest pit: a hangar-like hall more than 250 yards long and 80 yards wide spans the pit.

Xian is the centre for visiting two other spectacular on-site museums: in the eastern suburb is the 7,000-year-old neolithic village of Pan-po, which has also been preserved under a huge hangar. The foundations of round and square houses, storage pits for millet, and the large pottery jars in which the children were buried are all preserved as they were excavated.

Two hours' drive north-west of Xian is the tomb complex of the Tang emperor Gao Zong and his notorious empress Wu Tze Tien, who ruled China in herself for 40 years in the late seventh century. Among the satellite burials to the great imperial tumulus, which uses a mountain as its backdrop, is that of the princess Yung Tai. She was allegedly made to commit suicide by the Empress Wu for criticizing two court favorites, although her epitaph says she died in childbirth.

The tomb has attractive wall-paintings of court ladies and scholars (replicas now having replaced the originals), and superb carving on the great black stone sarcophagus of the unfortunate princess and her husband of less than a year. The tomb, together with the avenue of stone animals and human, leading to the imperial sepulchre, and the museum of finds from the satellite tombs around that of the Tang emperor Li Shi Min (which is usually taken in on the return journey to Xian) give a breath-taking view of Tang art at the height of China's imperial sway.

Thus far our journey had taken us back through Chinese history by leaps and bounds, from the Ming to Peking, through the Wei at Datong and the Tang at Xian; at Zhengzhou, downriver from Luoyang, we were taken to see the earliest city-wall in China, dating from early in the Shang dynasty, perhaps about 1500 B.C. Archaeologists are still arguing whether this is the wall of the first Shang capital of Ao, or the later city of Po, but either way it is an impressive monument, even in its present dilapidated state. A substantial part of the eastern wall has miraculously survived, partly protected by a modern garden wall which runs outside it, partly running parallel to and only a few yards from a busy street. Recently, Chinese archaeologists have cut a section through the wall, and shown it to be made of multiple layers of rammed mud, called *hang-tu*. It is over 30ft thick.

This, and the magnificent collection of Shang bronzes in the Zhengzhou museum (where photography is freely permitted), were the archaeological culmination of our tour. Before leaving Zhengzhou we were taken to see two recently excavated Han tombs, one adorned with low-relief carvings, the other with frescoes, dating to about AD 200, and then, over thousands of miles of railroad travel at an end, we were whisked southward by China's national airline CAA to Guilin, to relax and appreciate some of the stunning limestone karst scenery of the Guangxi Autonomous Region before leaving for Hongkong and home.

We had been given, I think, as fair a glimpse of China's past as was possible in three weeks, although sites unvisited at Anyang, Kaifeng, Changsha and many other places induce me to return. And now that the Chinese Government has opened parts of the western provinces to foreigners there are the great sites of the Silk Route to visit—the Buddhist shrines of Dun Huang, the oasis market centre of Turfan, the Jade Gate at Jiyuguan

whence the Taoist sage Lao Tzu rode off into oblivion on his black water buffalo, and through which the goods and merchants of the West passed on their way to the Imperial court at Changan or Peking. I shall be going back to China. The author is Archaeological Correspondent of The Times. Study China is at 27 Leyland Road, SE11.

Norman Hammond

## 1980 THERMAL TREATMENT

Treatment will be at the most effective and enjoyable if it is combined with sun and relaxation. From the ATLANTIC OCEAN to the MEDITERRANEAN SEA, choose any one of the spots in the Sunshine Chain of Thermal Spas for relaxation.

as GREGOIR LES BAINS (France). Altitude 400 metres. Best climate in Mediterranean. Excellent food, dry and temperate. Roman-Gaulish hot springs in Celtic caves, equipped with the facilities: Rheumatism, arthritis, polyarthritis, sciatica, arthralgia, traumatic ulcers. Active movement therapy in heated thermal pool. Respiratory tract. Specialist medical and paramedical staff. 600 rooms of which 150, with or without board.

as AMELIE LES BAINS (Boulevard). Southernmost spa in France. Altitude 750 metres, temperate, mild and dry. Mediterranean climate. Rheumatism, respiratory tract. All types of accommodation available.

as MOUTRIE LES BAINS (Boulevard). Altitude 450 metres. Temperate Mediterranean climate (mild and dry). SKIN, rheumatism, respiratory tract. Specialist medical and paramedical staff. Modernized thermal facilities and hotel. Relaxation, good food, 250 rooms and luxury, studio flats with kitchen.

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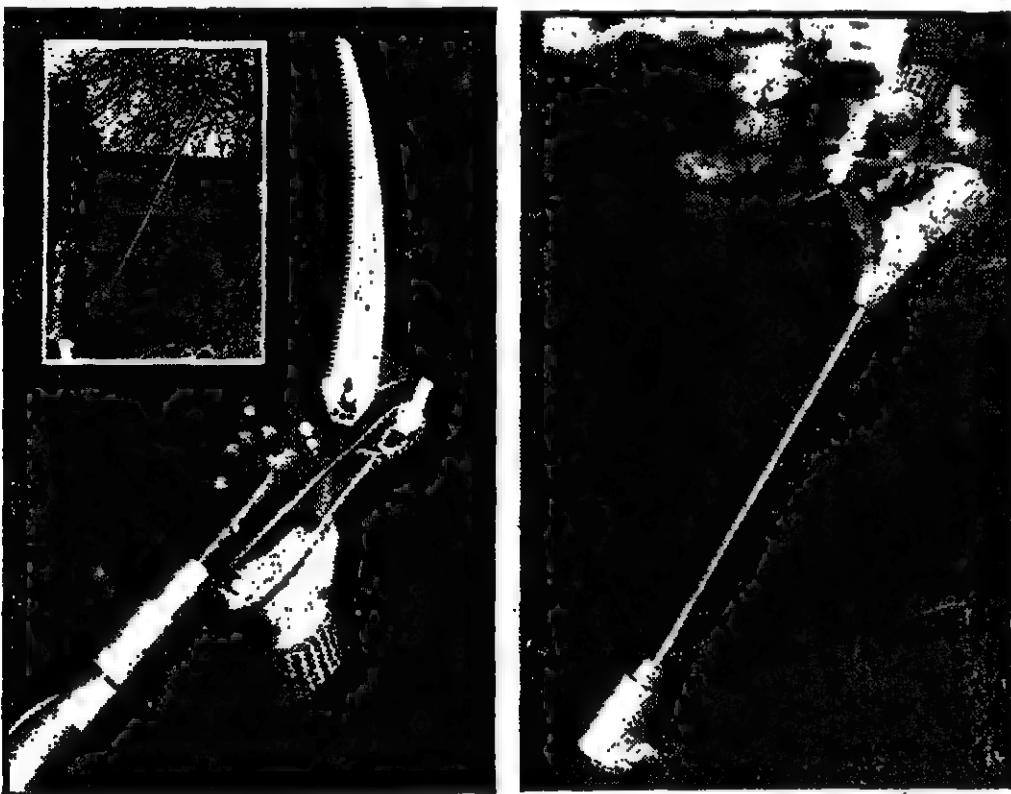
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The Times special offer  
Artificial stretch

If you need a long handed or "long arm" tree pruner in your garden you need it really badly—the alternative is climbing about on ladders to do necessary pruning, removal of dead wood, or limiting the height for example of tall conifer hedges. And if you are going to have a long arm pruner you might as well buy a really good one.

The "Village Blacksmith" we offer is telescopic. The outer aluminium, plastic coated tube is 5ft long and 1 1/4in diameter. The inner tube which slides easily up and down the outer tube is just over 5ft long and when fully extended enables one to cut branches 12ft or more from the ground. The blade will cut branches up to 1 1/2in thick and is operated by pulling on a stout woven plastic cord. It is spring loaded so that the blade returns to its open position after each cut.

To lock the inner tube at any position you simply give the milled grip a half turn—similarly to release it to slide back into the outer tube. There are no nuts, bolts or clips to worry about in this telescopic function. The pruning saw is fitted to the top of the long arm by a butterfly which is the work of a moment. The saw may be set to three different angles. The tool is remarkably light and easy to use.

There have been considerable developments in rechargeable battery operated tools in recent years, and this year a most interesting advance. This trimmer does just what previous machines have done using a nylon "fishing line"—it cuts grass or weeds in awkward places, on banks, under shrubs, or around tree trunks and, of course, switches off those un-

likely "bents" or grass stems that on some lawns provide the mower.

But it does not use a "fishing line": the cutting is done by a short plastic blade about three inches long, which just slots into place, and is replaced by a new one. A pack of 20 spare blades comes with the machine, and further blades are available. The blades naturally wear out more quickly if they are used for cutting grass or weeds right up to walls, or fences and hit them, than if they are just used for cutting grass or weeds in the open. This machine is a boon where grass and weeds are growing against wire netting or chain-linked fencing.

Roy Hay

To order, please complete coupon in block letters. Offer applies to the U.K. only. Normal delivery within 28 days from receipt of order. Money refunded if returned within seven days of receipt. Overseas, not orders on 01-637 7851. Selective Marketplace Ltd., 18 Oyle Street, London W1P 7LG.

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My cheque/PO for £..... made payable to Selective Marketplace Ltd. is enclosed. Please write name and address on reverse of cheque.

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## Bridge

## Deduction and bluff

The puzzles which my readers find most enjoyable are those which exemplify actual situations where players of our calibre expect to find themselves. You will not be surprised, therefore, that I am irritated by problems which have been artfully contrived and in which the critical position will have been reached only after an impossible sequence of bidding with a couple of rakes thrown in as by design. I have always done my utmost to provide my readers with questions on which it was worth their while to reflect, because they might find themselves confronted by similar situations. I should hate their answers to be obtained by an unnatural process of reasoning.

An example of what I mean by artificial or accidental defence was published some years ago in *The Bridge World*. It was composed by an accomplished player who did not disclose whether he stumbled upon an ideal line of play by accident, or whether he had cooked the hands to fit the problem.

The solution is so neat that few defenders in the East position would find the solution within 60 seconds if they could not obtain a glimpse of hidden hand, and we should agree that it is unreasonable to hold up a rubber for several minutes in order to examine every line of defence. I am giving it, with acknowledgement to Edwin B. Rantap of Los Angeles, because it illustrates the stage of development where the genuine problem is sacrificed to artificial bluffs.

No score: dealer East.

♠ A Q 10 9 8 7  
♥ 3 4  
♦ 8 7 6 5  
♣ A 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

West opens with the ♠K, East encourages with the ♠A and concludes with the ♠Q which you, East, win. You are an experienced player, so you visualize yourself entangled in an ugly squeeze if you cash your diamonds and then lead the ♠K. If declarer, who is marked with six tricks in spades and two aces, also holds the ♠J, he makes game by means of a club finesse. So you must assume that your partner holds the ♠J which is the key to the contract. What must you do to frustrate the declarer and protect West's invaluable card?

After four diamonds, one heart and six spades South, who discards after you, has you thwarted by keeping, according to what you discard on the last spade, either his doubleton ♠A

or the ♠A with the ♠J. You next discover that if you switch to a heart after winning the second diamond you and West must each discard a red card on the long spade; declarer then seizes an end-play in clubs by leading a red card from dummy.

The solution of this problem is to win three diamonds only before switching, and the only way to ensure that West will not cash a fourth diamond is to win the second trick with the ♠J and then to cash the ♠A. Regrettably, I cannot recall ever having defended in this way in order to protect my partner from himself. Probably, one of us would have been squeezed, which shows how much I have still to learn.

A more beguiling type of problem appeared in the European Championships of 1965, when the Swiss champion Jean Besse persuaded the German on his left to make a disastrous discard.

No score: dealer North.

♠ K 10 9 8 7 6 5  
♥ A J 10 8 6 3  
♦ K J  
♣ A A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

The ♠9 was led. Declarer appears to have little hope of a thirteenth trick unless East holds both spade honours and the ♠Q. South would then win the ♠9 with the ♠A, clear his clubs, cash the ♠A and run all his trumps. The last heart squeezes East who must concede a trick to the ♠10 or the ♠7. Besse decided that this line was too optimistic and that he must resort to deception. He won the lead with dummy's ♠K, disposed of his clubs and ran all his trumps.

With one trump remaining to be played, the position was

♠ 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♥ A J 10 8 6 3  
♦ K J  
♣ A A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

South led his ♠10, and West could not decide whether declarer held two spades and one spade; he should have known that if South held the ♠J, he would have run the ♠9 to his hand. He seems to have imagined that he must protect East against a spade squeeze and that his diamonds were valueless.

When he threw the ♠2 dummy's ♠J was discarded and East was forced to keep both his spades. So declarer led a diamond to the ♠A and took the last two tricks with the ♠A and the ♠7.

Edward Mayer

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## Caroline Moorehead meets a village headmistress who served in the Chinese Liberation Army

The jacket of Esther Cheo Ying's book, *Black Country Girl in Red China*, shows a pretty girl in a greatcoat and fur cap, a pistol stuck into a cartridge belt around her waist. It is sunny, and she is smiling, a Chinese army cadre on a day out sometime in 1949.

The woman you meet today is Mrs. Samson, a cheerful, resolute village school headmistress in Devon, a middle-aged mother of three grown-up children, who is married to the editor of the local paper and rides her pony across the Teign valley on icy winter mornings from her bungalow on one slope to her school on the other.

The book prepares the visitor for much, but perhaps not quite for this degree of transformation. When you leave her, Esther Cheo Ying is still inside China, though on her way out, her army days over and by now working in the English language section of Radio Peking, and married to an Englishman.

In between have come 11 years of China in the dedicated first days of the Chinese People's Republic, when food was often so scarce that the cadres ate cats and considered the odd handful of peanuts a delicacy, and the dust blew in gritty yellow clouds from the deserted plains surrounding the city. They were years of extraordinary sports, living, and rigorous mental self-examination, of watching mass executions and joining political campaigns, of revering the party leaders and believing in a great communal future, and they came to an end in the doubts and fears that grew with the late 1950s and the first stirrings of the Red Guards. Married to a foreigner, and long unsuspected as a "revisionist", she got out.

Why she first went to China is very simple. Esther Cheo Ying was the daughter of a rich Chinese student at the London School of Economics and a Cockney chambermaid in the hotel in which he was staying. She was born in Shanghai in 1932. She was in England by the time war broke out, her mother bequeathed her with Chinese life, but she continued to feel Chinese, all through the days at Dr Barnardo's, the foster homes in the Midlands.

So Chinese in fact that when she was 16 she married a Chinese pilot, one of General Chennault's Flying Tigers, and made her way back to China to find her father—only by the time she got there, she had



Lady with a Chinese past: Mrs. Esther Samson and pupils at her Devon village school.

Photograph by Arthur Kay

## The long march from China to Devon

changed sides and took part in the triumphal entry into the capital as a soldier in the Chinese Liberation Army.

It was an adventure, and it did not quite work out. She divorced her husband and she never caught up with her father; she did catch sight of him, once, by now disgraced for currency dealings with the Americans, and she feared to jeopardize her own future by contact with him. It was in any case emotionally too late. She came to hate and fear the communality of things, the adulation of the party leaders, the spying and sneaking.

And she was never quite accepted: in the Midlands she

had been called a Chink-Chink Chinaman, in China she was a rebellious foreigner with bourgeois tastes.

So when her second husband was offered the job of correspondent in East Berlin, it looked like freedom. A necessary freedom: still regarded as a prestigious army cadre in China she had found the authorities reluctant to let her go. She pressed them, threatening suicide.

"I knew we weren't safe, and I dreaded the way my sons were gradually being taken away from me. I didn't think it would be long before I would be sent off to a re-education camp. She was probably right; many

of her friends, expelled as revisionists, did spend the day of the cultural revolution in labour camps, or, worse before the event, being offered to "learn to love labour" in time. The trouble was that the wall between the two Berlins was going up, she was urged to work for Radio Berlin, and her two sons, who had once come home calling her an imperialist pig, now told their neighbours that she was watching Western television, so that politically conscientious citizens came round to see how she was to be subject her family to propaganda.

managed to secure the right papers for herself and her children, and arrived in London, sad but determined. Her husband Alan, his British passport withdrawn for reporting on the opposite side in Korea, was not allowed back with her. Clearly, these were bleak days, but Esther Cheo Ying is not a woman to whine: she took what work she could find translating, sold the mink coat and paintings she had wisely brought out of China as investments, and sent her sons off to the foster family who had raised her.

Like her at the same age, the boys could speak no English. As well, she says, as the things they said about the Eng-

lish, and to their faces, in Chinese did not bear translating. Within a year she had met Lance Samson, started a teacher-training course, and, not quite Chinese, and not quite English, had thoroughly come to terms with herself. There was to be no more going back, no more questions about identity.

"Had we stayed in Peking," she says, "my sons would have been Red Guards. They would have put red bands around their arms and terrorized the countryside; they would have become hoodlums, vandals." As it is they are middle-class English young men, both working in art and design. There is a younger daughter, Polly, not at secretarial college.

Today Esther Cheo Ying appears very happy. She likes being a school teacher and would wish for no other life. She is charmed by the ease with which she found her teaching posts, and the fact that in each case she was chosen not only in spite of her unorthodox background but because of it. Short-listed, then interviewed for each of her three teaching jobs, she dreaded the question, "Tell me about your past." She told them. One can see why the school managers loved it: she is funny, a little depressing, very contained, a woman of strength.

Even the writing, which, to judge from the unselfconscious frankness of the book, seems to come naturally to her, is an amusement, something to do when she is not arranging badminton in the village hall, shooting her neighbours' troublesome crows or lecturing the local women's institutes on Chinese cooking.

It was, in fact, a cookery class that gave her the idea for her book. "What an interesting life you must have had," one woman said to her, and so she went away and wrote it down, sent it to Hutchinson's and had it accepted. The second volume—East Berlin, flashbacks to China and to her love affair with Wang Tao, who at one point she would have shot had she known how to load the unfamiliar Russian pistol in his belt—is finished; the third, what she calls "living the good life," is still to come.

*Black Country Girl in Red China*, by Esther Cheo Ying. Hutchinson, £5.95.

Fred Emery is ill. His Saturday column will be resumed next week.

## The perfect teacher, back with the animals

It is becoming hard to avoid David Attenborough on television. His *Spirit of 45* series ends tomorrow night and *Life on Earth*, his glorious explanation of Darwin's theories of evolution, is repeated on BBC 1 from this Tuesday. By coincidence, it was his decisions as a senior member of BBC television management that made way for such an ambitious series to be made at all.

As former Controller of BBC2, he more than anyone was responsible for shaping the network as it exists today, with a bias in favour of science programmes. And, as he oversaw the introduction of colour to British television, he launched such prestige factual series as Lord Clark's *Civilisation* and Dr Jacob Bronowski's *Aspects of Science*, which he thought would celebrate high fidelity television.

"It was obvious to anyone with half an eye," he said, "that the next subject which needed and such treatment was the natural world. I was on the spot, really, I had decided to leave adminis-

tration and I was on fire lest someone else had taken the idea. When I resigned, the thing I wanted to do was this series."

He need not have worried. His reputation as the most professional and best liked presenter of wildlife programmes made him the obvious choice for *Life on Earth*. It is an epic of nature filming.

"We were able, for instance, to put together views of living amphibians which no one had been able to see in that range of time ever. No zoo could show you that amount. The visual effect was devastating. It had the same effect on me as it did on everyone else. I remember the first time I saw the amphibian programme. I was speechless. My jaw was sagging with wonder."

From the first programme the scale of achievement was apparent. "I can't tell you how touching some of the letters were. We were receiving about 100 a day. They came from children eight years old and professors of zoology. One pro-



David Attenborough, nature's evangelist

fessor wrote: 'But above all, I must thank you for reminding me why it was that I became a zoologist 50 years ago.'

"But you cannot go wrong with pictures of animals. If you are Galbraith or Bronowski you have a hell of a job on. But animal behaviour and animals: you just let them get on with it. They are immediately fascinating and beautiful."

Although he does not con-

sider it the peak of his career, it was a unique platform for his talents. "It just so happened that all the other things in my early career had a conservation theme. I knew the natural world and about filming and therefore I knew what could be put in a script. I had learned about didactic television, putting complex ideas in simple terms so that they are accessible. I knew about anthropology. I actually read a lot of geology and I was fascinated by fossils, which were very important in the series. And everything came together at the right time in terms of television."

"The tradition of this sort of series had been established, though I don't know how many more can be made, simply because of the cost. And the photographic scale had reduced. I don't mean just close-ups, but being able to shoot centipedes and spiders moving. That sort of thing could not have been done ten years ago. And there were airlines which would take us around the world in a way which was impossible 15 years ago. With the state of petrol, we may not be able to do that in the next 10 years."

"Then there was the strength of the BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol which has links with natural history photographers all over the world. In the end we used 26 different cameramen. The success of the series is theirs. As any one time there were at least six at work. There

were, then, between 18 and 26 cameramen years used up. It couldn't have been made by any one man or at any other time. I was approaching 50 and the only team that could have tackled it at all."

Born into a family of teachers, he has two children, both now teaching, and his art is that of a perfect teacher. Sitting among Bambara tribe fertility symbols and other African artefacts in his Richmond, Surrey, home, he did not merely talk but tried to convert by enthusiasm, an evangelist on behalf of nature.

"I get as great a pleasure in showing somebody something as I do in seeing it. In the first place, I find this quality in man interesting in a biological sense. One of the characters to which man owes his position is an instinct which leads him to communicate and relate experiences. It is that which has led man to his cultural levels. There is no other creature which communicates so freely and so often."

"Why do scientists occupy themselves and spend such a lot of money on sending into space a radio message giving the formula for life? Because they hope that others like them will communicate with the future, placing objects under new buildings, like coins and copies of *The Times*."

It was a need to pass on the pleasure of his discoveries which forced him away from the conventional rewards of

television administration back to programme making. "I was management, handling staff; trade unions, general finance about all. I wasn't my game. I was approaching 50 and the jobs I could see I was going to get on that particular ladder were of the same kind. I thought, why put up with all this when I haven't even been to the Galapagos Islands?"

Nicholas Wapshott

Do you remember the good old days when you could get a job on the side posing for a Tory poster?



Sportsview

## Powerful argument for the riot act

lary prone to outbursts of violence. Happily, these have been the exception rather than the rule, but they need reining in as a warning. The victorious 1971 British Lions suffered an unprovoked mauling at Canterbury and as a result of foul play their props, Carmichael and McLoughlin, took no further part in the tour. Their were persistent bouts of fist-

cuffs on the 1974 Lions tour of South Africa where the British team had a prearranged call of "39" for mass retaliation—in itself a cause for lament. In Sydney in 1975 England were set upon from the first whistle by the tramping of J. P. R. Williams and the Al Blacks and the raking of Halsey by Llanelli, both last season.

Now cricket has fallen prey to barbarism with umpires defied and reviled. First Lillee resisted an umpire in Australia over his dismissal but this week, the West Indians have been justifying an umpire and refusing to play in protest at umpiring decisions. An apology was forthcoming but Croft, the player involved in the jostling incident, has been picked for

the third Test just starting. Likewise, the Welsh rugby authorities issued a meek statement on violence. Only when the measures imposed by the authorities will suffice.

Player power is at its height (or rather nadir) in tennis where it seems anything goes in the way of gamesmanship. On the bad, the outrageous antics in the world doubles championships at Olympia in January cost him a mere £2,300 and no suspension or penalty points; no action was taken against Jimmy Connors for a spate of obscenities while he was playing Borg in the Masters in New York later that month.

Nastiness has found its way into squash. In a recent women's match between Angela Smith of Britain, and Vicki Hoffmann of Australia. At least the authorities have taken prompt steps to nip this trend in the bud: the riot act was read on Wednesday, when the two women met again in the British open, and a grade-A referee was brought down from the States. Hove to see fair play prevailed.

The punishment must fit the crime. Nothing short of suspension, coupled with a hefty fine for professionals is adequate. Furthermore, administrators and coaches must root out the unethical players and bar them access to the field, the court or whatever. On a bigger note, it is worth stating that the true champions still succeed and survive by a code of ethics and discipline: Liverpool, Bjorn Borg, Jack Nicklaus, to name but three.

Nicholas Keith  
Sports Editor

## Madame Rovina was right after all

beauty and distinction of Mme Rovina. Not long after this the Habima left Russia and began touring both in Europe and America, where their performances were widely acclaimed in the major European cities and in New York.

In November 1937 I invited the Habima Players to visit England for a second time and arranged for them to appear for a month's season at the Savoy Theatre. It was during this visit that I was also able to introduce them personally on BBC television. The play chosen for this very early BBC television Drama broadcast was *The Dukenik*, which was telecast from Alexandra Palace on November 19.

One day after the Yom Kippur War in 1973, I was in Israel at a luncheon and sat next to a man who was talking about what he and others at the table had been doing during the war. He said he had been conducting officer for the correspondents of the *Sunday Times* and London *Times*. I asked him if in peacetime he was a journalist or a soldier. He said he had been both but now he was the Administrator of the new Habima Hebrew Theatre in Tel Aviv. I asked him eagerly for news of the company and he told me that he had been in the theatre for some time and was very happy to be there. He said he had been in the theatre for some time and was very happy to be there.

When I saw them perform I had cause to be grateful for Stanislavsky's advice. Both the performance and production left an extraordinarily powerful impression on me and the audience remembered

was very well but that, of course, she was now nearly 85 and had become "somewhat confused". For instance, he explained, she would keep insisting that she had appeared on television in London, a story which could not possibly be true because everyone was quite sure that the Habima's visit to London had taken place long before television service had begun. Happily I was able to confirm that Mme Rovina's memory was not in the least at fault, that she had indeed appeared on television in London and that I had played a part in her introduction to British television.

Later that afternoon my Jewish friend telephoned to say that he had spoken to Mme Rovina, that she remembered me well and would very much like to see me.

I was not planning to go to Tel Aviv but I felt that this meeting was an occasion I could not miss and a day was fixed. When I arrived at the Habima Theatre, my friend who had made the arrangements looked dishevelled. He told me that Mme Rovina had suddenly gone home without explanation. Sensing my disappointment he led me on a tour of the theatre and there in the main lobby was the life-size portrait of Mme Rovina, looking as beautiful as I remembered her when she first came to London.

I was surprised that she had left the theatre having asked to see me. But I like to think that her reason was very understandable. Could it have been because the very beautiful young woman of the portrait did not now want me to see her in extreme old age?

Lord Bernstein

The game of Rugby Union football goes on trial today. The chief defendants are Wales, who stand accused of playing long, slow, and dangerous games, and Scotland, who stand accused of playing a game of rugby that is too hard on the players. The trial will take place in the court of public opinion, and the verdict will be reached by the fans. The game of Rugby Union football goes on trial today. The chief defendants are Wales, who stand accused of playing long, slow, and dangerous games, and Scotland, who stand accused of playing a game of rugby that is too hard on the players. The trial will take place in the court of public opinion, and the verdict will be reached by the fans.

There has been much moaning in the Welsh valleys since the sickening battle of Twickenham. There are complaints of press pressure before the match, trial by television during and after it, and prejudice by scores of jurors (mainly English) who point to Welsh goals and ignore English complexity. This will not do.

From the stands England looked by no means blameless—it is questionable which side threw the first stone—but Wales seemed bent on a brutal course of physical intimidation and they must bear the greater weight of responsibility. Wales could have won by playing rugby, so it was fitting that their disdain of discipline and ethics should cost them the match. It highlights the question of sports as a warning. The victorious 1971 British Lions suffered an unprovoked mauling at Canterbury and as a result of foul play their props, Carmichael and McLoughlin, took no further part in the tour. Their were persistent bouts of fist-

As a physical contact sport, rugby may be thought particu-



Physical contact with a vengeance at Twickenham.





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## EXPLAIN IT TO THE PEOPLE

In one sense the debate in the House of Commons on Thursday was an event of little consequence. There was no policy announcement of significance by the Government and no devastating assault by the Opposition to undermine the confidence of ministers. But the debate illustrated two factors that may be of some importance to British politics over the coming months. The first concerns the Labour Party. Both Mr Callaghan and Mr Healey made essentially debating speeches that won the approval of their backbenchers. That may seem a modest achievement, but it is not one that has been easy for any Labour since the election, so great has been the party's disarray. These speeches both improved morale within the parliamentary party and reflected the improvement that had already taken place in recent weeks.

It is always a mistake to pay too much attention to the transient triumphs and setbacks at Westminster. A success in debate or a polished performance at Question Time does not lead on inexorably to electoral fortune. But the morale of the parliamentary party is of considerable significance in Labour's internal struggles. To say that it has recovered its confidence would be an exaggeration. There are signs of a number of members trimming their sails to outside pressure and there is still no evidence of a collective sense of direction. But, with the Government in difficulties, there is a greater awareness of the opportunities that Labour is missing through its own internal feuding and consequently not quite the same degree of hopelessness that there was a month or so ago.

The other missed opportunity was by the Government in the course of this debate. There were two ways in which ministers could have treated the occasion. They could offer a restatement of their case, laced with political knockabout; or they could have regarded it as an opportunity to persuade the House and the country of the logic of their policies. They pursued the first course when what was required was the second.

It is of the very nature of these policies that they involve the application of unpleasant restraints for some time before the benefits can be evident. We have argued on numerous occasions in those columns that this approach is abundantly justified, but there will be the degree of public support for it that is necessary to sustain it in a democracy only if ministers can per-

sue the country of the rightness of their purpose. What was evident in the debate was that they have yet to appreciate this need. They are waiting to be justified by events when events may not respond quite as soon as would be politically convenient.

All British, American and European experience confirms that there is a time lag of about two years between controlling the supply of money and the consequent restraint of price inflation. Unless this is fully explained there is the danger that monetary discipline will be assumed to be failing in its purpose when it is in fact simply working its way through the system. Yet ministers have made virtually no effort to bring this linkage to the attention of the general public. They are simply failing to emphasize both the corrosive effects of inflation and the risk of hyperinflation. It is no use trying to stabilize a rate of inflation of just under 20 per cent. Either it will be brought down or it will soar up into the stratosphere. It can be brought down only by painful measures which require resolution on the part of the Government—and public consent. In their determination to press ahead ministers would be wise not to forget this second factor.

This question is not seriously discussed at all in the Flowers Report, and the Report itself states that an investigation into the academic advantages (or disadvantages) of pre-clinical teaching in a multi-faculty college "would have needed a much longer time... than we were able to allow." It is true that the Committee at any time asked the College for evidence on the subject—which it did not—we could have provided a great deal of information.

Instead, the recommendation to discontinue medical teaching in this college was based on several factors which make surprising reading, not least the argument that we are too far away from the three clinical schools with which we should be associated. How is it possible to be 1.5 miles from St Thomas' and 1.8 miles from Guy's and from the third, King's College Hospital, we are 0.7 miles further away than Guy's and 1.3 miles further than St Thomas' (the two hospitals which would prefer to be "put through" to the other pre-clinical teaching).

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD WATSON  
University of London, King's College, Strand, WC2E 6BT.  
February 28.

From Dr Simon Behrman

Sir, One of the glories of the 12 undergraduate medical teaching schools in London is that each has preserved manageable dimensions. This has made possible close relations between teacher and student—a feature of medical education in London.

Following the 1914-18 war, these schools were made to assume greater responsibility for post-graduate education and medical research, much to the detriment of undergraduate education. The subsequent regrouping of these schools appears to have been motivated by the need to meet population movements in London and also by the alleged need to make each of these schools fully comprehensive in all medical specialties. As far as the first objective is concerned, the schools have already tackled this problem most successfully. Self-sufficiency in all specialties need not be considered as a prerequisite for an undergraduate medical school.

Should a regrouping of teaching hospitals be decided upon, it is imperative that the separate identity of the undergraduate medical schools should be preserved and

to be close to the Gang of Four. The delay over their dismissal has involved the delicate task of assuring Mr Hua Kuo-feng of his status as party chairman even though he, too, was similarly promoted and was close enough to Mao until the last critical year for his distance from the Gang of Four to be insufficiently marked. Now the readjustment is complete.

All these changes have put Mr Deng Xiaoping in a dominant position and put the party back where it was in 1956 before Mao's obsessive revolutionary idealism diverted it into disastrous paths. Judging by his remarks in a recent speech Mr Deng hopes to keep the direction for another five years. His drive and undomestic approach to economic questions—"What does it matter if the cat is black or white as long as it catches the mice?"—meets China's present need. Only a younger generation, brought up in that Maoist era on which the party has turned its back, is unlikely asking for more political freedom than the old guard is willing to allow them.

## RETURN OF THE CONFUCIAN EXEMPLAR

"China's Khrushchev, the renegade traitor and scab", accused of counter-revolutionary crimes without number during and since the cultural revolution, has now had his dignity and honour restored. Liu Shao-chi, the butt of red guards, is now declared to have been a great Marxist-Leninist. The charges against him, which necessitated rewriting his career from his earliest days in the attempt to vilify him as an evil influence from the beginning, are found to be completely false. The fact that this "biggest frame-up that our party has known in its history" has to be charged against Lin Biao rather than Mao Tse-tung will deceive no one: it is simply part of the accepted fiction which accompanies the steady dethronement of Mao's reputation as the party's leader in the last twenty years of his life.

Liu's posthumous rehabilitation is important not merely because he was the party's vice-chairman. The country was

flooded with leaflets, plagued by incessant broadcasts, lectured in countless villages on his revisionist sins so as to make of him a national figure by his vilification. What must now be the reaction to his reappearance as an admired political leader? How many of those now back in Chinese universities recall from their childhood the songs and dances in which they joined as six-year-olds, driving imaginary bayonets into the corpse of Liu? Yet any thinking Chinese, only too well aware of his country's past, might see Liu as a man who stands closer to the best Chinese tradition of the upright bureaucrat; he professed a new creed, yet not so new as to be unrecognizable compared with the Confucian exemplars of the past.

The plenary session of the central committee in Peking which effected this change in Liu's reputation has also discharged from office four members of the political bureau, all of whom were promoted from provincial appointments during the cultural revolution by Mao's personal decree and were known

## SOUTH AFRICA WATCHES RHODESIA

The South African government has chosen a curious occasion to release the long-delayed report by Judge-Professor Cillie on the Soweto riots of June, 1976. Events in Rhodesia will reinforce interest in it, and its findings will certainly not be welcome to Mr Pieter Botha and his government or to the Afrikaner establishment. After taking exhaustive evidence from those directly involved, Judge Cillie confirms what observers of the South African scene felt at the time: that, while the violence was set off by a demonstration of students against the use of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction, the underlying cause was the overbearing frustration and fury of blacks under apartheid and the spread of outright racial hatred.

Judge Cillie's exoneration of the police's record—although the police accounted for 451 of the 575 deaths—is less significant than his conclusion that both police and administration were totally out of touch with black discontent. The more the police for forceful protest in spite of the efforts made since the Sharpeville riots fifteen years earlier to improve both security and rapport. Many people will think

that this cycle of placency followed by violence is the inevitable result of white attitudes in South Africa. Whether it persists, whether new surges of protest and desperation again catch the authorities unawares, or whether the accelerating pace of change in southern Africa has really increased the sensitivity and realism of the whites, the near future may disclose.

It is certainly true that Mr Botha has been making efforts to conciliate the non-white races. As Judge Cillie notes, petty apartheid has been relaxed. But the violence that testified at Soweto to black exasperation continues and now reflects total rejection of the South African state and its social institutions. Upon this darkening scene current events in Rhodesia may have a profound impact. To the South African blacks, Rhodesia has been, more than Angola or Kenya, their own struggle against white rule. With growing excitement they have seen white rule crumbling into defeat. They see the process begun by European decolonization proceed inexorably to Africa's deep south.

If the elections in Rhodesia peacefully produce a black

government which shows that it can successfully run Zimbabwe and reconcile its white minority to black rule and social equality with blacks, South Africa's blacks will have new arguments for insisting that apartheid was never a solution to race relations and always an expedient for perpetuating white domination. They will call ever more forcefully for the one thing whites, even many liberals, will oppose to the last gasp—one man one vote elections that inevitably install the representatives of the majority in power. The South Africans, however many concessions they may make to delay that ultimate issue, must eventually face it. Indeed, success in Rhodesia may hasten the coming of majority rule in Namibia.

If the poll in Rhodesia produces civil war, the impact on South Africa may initially seem more favourable to the whites. But it would still leave intact the major lesson of Rhodesia: that organized force by the black majority, however much black suffering was entailed, did bring down minority white rule. South Africa is different, but the challenge to minority white rule is not to be denied.

## Deaths in police custody

From Mr L. A. Hawkins  
Sir, Mr Michael Meacher (February 5) referred to "the extremely unsatisfactory situation faced by the police in having to deal with large numbers of drunken persons in police station cells."

As the severity of alcoholic intoxication increases the subject becomes increasingly unfit to guard himself against common dangers (indeed by law a blood alcohol of 80mg/100ml is the limit of fitness to drive a car). The drunken person, whether driver or pedestrian, is in greatly increased danger of injuring or killing himself or others, particularly in cities and towns where almost every surface is stony hard, and there are hazards, such as kerbs, steps, unfenced water and motor traffic.

No doubt most have the benefit of more sober friends to control and protect them, and if a police officer judges this to be the case, they are taken to a police station. But to let a comparatively well alone, but to let the police take a drunk into custody for some legal reason, they incidentally promote preventive medicine. The number of injuries and deaths that they prevent in this way could be considerable, but can hardly be calculated. After all, deaths associated with drunkenness may occur anywhere, in the home, hospital or street, at the bottom of staircases or over the side, or in water by accidental drowning. In the presence of drink, injury, drunkenness can be the hazard by increasing

culity of diagnosis or obscuring the observation of progress. A drunk who is in touch with his surroundings but perhaps a little fuddled in speech, can be sufficiently unassisted to pain to take no notice when thumped on a bone at the site of a fracture. Notably, the earliest stages of some coronary heart attacks or of cerebral haemorrhage following perhaps minor injury showing no sign externally, may be very elusive even in the sober, but may none the less result in death in a matter of hours. Drunkenness obscures the meagre evidence at the onset, and makes the assessment of subsequent changes that might be obvious in the sober very much more difficult.

Superficially, 245 deaths in police custody in 10 years may appear to be strong evidence in favour of developing detoxification centres, but this amounts to only 25.8 deaths a year. If we postulate a centre to take a population of about half a million (say one hundredth of the country), it would have to reduce deaths to materially less than one in four years to do better in respect of mortality than the police and the police surgeon. (I say "materially" because, while it is reasonable to assume that the majority of deaths in police cells, from whatever cause, are associated with drunkenness, it is by no means reasonable to assume that they all are.)

In the present circumstances it appears that there is a good case for a review of the 245 deaths. I am, presumably well, yours faithfully,  
L. A. HAWKINS,  
39 Windsor Road,  
Doncaster,  
South Yorkshire.

that would illuminate the situation more. Death certificates alone are likely to be inadequate because, given a cause of death such as coronary occlusion, subdural haemorrhage or inhalation of vomit, coroners and doctors may be reluctant to include alcoholic intoxication, however relevant, in the certificate, out of a very natural consideration for the relatives. Care of the drunk is, at best, a squalid business, but there are many aspects of the existing situation that ought to be improved. In view of satisfactory results reported from trials of detoxification centres, surely such trials ought to be given support and continued. In 1976 the Bleanerhasen report estimated the annual cost of drunken driving at £100m.

Yours faithfully,  
L. A. HAWKINS,  
39 Windsor Road,  
Doncaster,  
South Yorkshire.

## Jews in Russia

From Sir Robert Mayer, CH  
Sir, Let us now praise men, not for their fame but for their courageous stand.

In Jacques Emile Zola defended nearly a hundred years ago the innocent Dreyfus.

In The Times Bernard Levin is now defending the innocent Jews in Russia.

Your obedient servant,  
ROBERT MAYER,  
2 Mansfield Street, W1,  
February 26.

## Hostility to plans for medical schools in London

From the Principal of King's College London

Sir, I applaud your conclusion in your letter on February 27 that the recommendations of the Flowers Report on medical education in London should not be implemented without widespread public discussion. It will be found that in respect of some of the "reasoning" will not bear the careful scrutiny which you rightly demand. But this is neither the time nor the place for a detailed commentary on the Report. I would, however, draw attention to one recommendation which merits the widest possible debate.

The cessation of the pre-clinical teaching in this College would deprive nearly 200 medical and dental students a year of the advantages, both academic and personal, of spending the first two years of their medical studies in the company of other young people studying many subjects other than medicine, from law and theology to classical chemistry and physics. We really want an increasing number of our future doctors to spend the whole period of their medical training (it could not be called education) in a school where nothing is taught but medicine and nobody studies but medical students.

This question is not seriously discussed at all in the Flowers Report, and the Report itself states that an investigation into the academic advantages (or disadvantages) of pre-clinical teaching in a multi-faculty college "would have needed a much longer time... than we were able to allow." It is true that the Committee at any time asked the College for evidence on the subject—which it did not—we could have provided a great deal of information.

Instead, the recommendation to discontinue medical teaching in this college was based on several factors which make surprising reading, not least the argument that we are too far away from the three clinical schools with which we should be associated. How is it possible to be 1.5 miles from St Thomas' and 1.8 miles from Guy's and from the third, King's College Hospital, we are 0.7 miles further away than Guy's and 1.3 miles further than St Thomas' (the two hospitals which would prefer to be "put through" to the other pre-clinical teaching).

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD WATSON  
University of London, King's College, Strand, WC2E 6BT.  
February 28.

From Dr Simon Behrman

Sir, One of the glories of the 12 undergraduate medical teaching schools in London is that each has preserved manageable dimensions. This has made possible close relations between teacher and student—a feature of medical education in London.

Following the 1914-18 war, these schools were made to assume greater responsibility for post-graduate education and medical research, much to the detriment of undergraduate education. The subsequent regrouping of these schools appears to have been motivated by the need to meet population movements in London and also by the alleged need to make each of these schools fully comprehensive in all medical specialties. As far as the first objective is concerned, the schools have already tackled this problem most successfully. Self-sufficiency in all specialties need not be considered as a prerequisite for an undergraduate medical school.

Should a regrouping of teaching hospitals be decided upon, it is imperative that the separate identity of the undergraduate medical schools should be preserved and

## Between father and son

From Mr David Vaughan

Sir, I have just returned from California after a fruitless mission to recover my 23-year-old son. He is with the Unification Church whose cult leader is a Mr Moon.

Francis flew to San Francisco on November 1 for two weeks holiday. He is the only British graduate in energy technology at his bachelor and masters level.

I was able to see him on only two short occasions of a nine day visit and then on their property and never alone. His college tutor then flew out to help me and was granted just one visit on similar terms.

There is no question that due to their well documented teachings and their living conditions, the balance of his mind has been disturbed. The

United States immigration officials seem powerless to help even though he is classed as an overstayer, his visitor's visa having expired three months ago. He is required to work up to sixteen hours a day, cleaning, laundering, sorting reject fruit and vegetables, flower selling, preparing meals and enrolling new recruits.

Unlike the hippy era of the sixties, when loved ones could be recovered with relative ease, the hundreds of British and other citizens enmeshed in these cult establishments deserve and need immediate help.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID VAUGHAN,  
Home Farm, Northend Common,  
Hendon-on-Thames,  
Middlesex.  
February 18.

## Selling ships to Poland

From Mr David Roper

Sir, I am appalled to learn from the evidence given yesterday to the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry by British Shipbuilders, and reported in The Times today (February 28), that the loss on the Polish ship deal is now estimated at £40 million in addition to State subsidies of about £30 million.

Your readers may be interested to know that, as the General Council of British Shipping always pro-

any attempt to enlarge them must be avoided at all costs.

No irreparable damage to medical training in London would be caused were the remaining 22 institutions concerned with post-graduate teaching to be regrouped in the interest of economy.

Yours faithfully,  
SIMON BEHRMAN,  
33 Harley Street, W1,  
February 28.

From Dr J. M. Bradley

Sir, Your reasoned comment on the far-reaching implications of the proposed reorganization of undergraduate and postgraduate medical education in London ends with a justified plea for careful public debate of the complex issues. I am sure you will agree that any such debate should be an informed one. Unfortunately this is going to be difficult, if not impossible, as the University, who has printed the Flowers Report, has not seen fit to produce sufficient copies even for the senior members of its medical academic staff.

While it is in the scientific tradition to carry out experiments to prove one's hypothesis, it is also not scientific to look at other analogous situations. We have already seen, both in industry and in the National Health Service, what large, unwieldy organizations generate difficult if not insoluble problems. How much more is this to be expected in especially vocational, university courses, where building personal relationships between staff and students is of vital importance for the education, even well-being, of the undergraduates: ready confirmation of this is given by those who have endured the large, impersonal medical school. Schumacher is of utter relevance to this, as to so many other situations.

One wonders if the University has a vested interest in discouraging informed debate.

Yours faithfully,  
JEAN M. BRADLEY,  
Senior Lecturer,  
Microbiology Department,  
Royal Free Hospital,  
Fund Street, NW3,  
Barnet, NW3,  
February 28.

From Mr P. M. Rodgers

Sir, It appears that the 1980s are to see a repetition of the crash errors of the 1960s and 1970s. Surely we have seen from the misguided and disastrous efforts to make people live in lower blocks and to put their children in schools of 2000 that people cannot be treated like battery hens or products on conveyor belts.

However the Flowers Report on medical education shows that our administrators have learnt nothing from these mistakes. They have chosen to destroy the independent and intimate nature of London medical schools and to replace them with six vast medical factories.

If, as a medical student, I am to be thought of as a machine, then I would prefer to be "put through" a system designed for Rolls-Royces rather than Austin Allegros.

Is Lord Flowers attempting to half the medical "brain drain" by reducing our student value to zero? If he succeeds in their aims then I wish the members of the Flowers Committee sufficient longevity to be treated by the type of doctors they will be responsible for producing.

Yours faithfully,  
P. M. RODGERS,  
Westminster Medical School,  
17 Horseferry Road, SW1.

From Mr C. B. Bunker

Sir, The recommendations of the Flowers Report are intended to save money and at the same time assure the maintenance of the excellent standards associated for so long with medical education in London. Do the proposals offered by Flowers satisfactorily achieve these aims?

Financially, the Report mentions the saving of 3 millions a year (in a

budget of 160 millions). As scantily discussed are the costs of implementation. One of the institutions to be axed, Westminster Medical School, has the lowest grant from the University Grants Committee, the smallest administrative costs, and low cost per student.

Maintenance of standards is offered in the formation of large conglomerate "medical" schools. Analogies with British Leyland and British Steel were made in your column today (February 29). Vertical integration (ie students at the same place for the whole course) is automatically assumed (and not just by Flowers) to be a worthy aspiration. No one has the faith to condemn the converse by declaring that the stream of graduates sent to London medical schools from Cambridge for centuries has been consistently made bad doctors. The closure of Westminster Medical School is a betrayal of high standards of educational attainment. We have been out front for a long time, never an also-ran.

We maintain that the Flowers recommendations fall far short of their aims. The financial aspect is hazy and approaches insignificance: standards appear more threatened than protected. Such radical proposals cannot be justified by such severe shortcomings.

Yours faithfully,  
C. B. BUNKER,  
Westminster Medical School  
Students' Union,  
17 Horseferry Road, SW1,  
February 29.

From Miss M. Fox and others

Sir, Through the courtesy of your column we, as members of the Executive Committee of a League of Nurses with a membership of approximately 2,500, express our dismay at the proposals made this week by the London Health Planning Consortium and the Flowers Committee on Medical Education in London to change the nature of Westminster Hospital and to close the Medical School.

We do not wish to be reactionary or to stand in the way of progress. We are proud of our long tradition of service to patients and training of staff, but we are equally proud of the service and training as provided today. We are unable to accept that the destruction of these institutions can be of benefit.

The Campaign Committee, which has been established under the chairmanship of Dr F. Sparar to oppose these recommendations, would be pleased to receive letters of support.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY FOX,  
Tutor, Wotton School of Nursing of Westminster,  
M. O'CONNOR,  
Divisional Nursing Officer (General),  
B. RILEY,  
Sister, Westminster Hospital,  
F. JONES,  
Staff Nurse, Westminster Hospital,  
A. PATTERSON,  
Senior Nursing Officer, Westminster Hospital,  
JUNE SHEERWOOD,  
Nursing Officer, Westminster Hospital,  
The League of Nurses of Westminster Hospital and Westminster Children's Hospital, Westminster Hospital, Dean Ryle Street, SW1,  
February 28.

From Mr P. A. Virgo

Sir, I trust that when the Westminster Hospital goes private, in response to the Flowers report, it will be floated as a public company so that we may all have a chance to invest in this immensely profitable opportunity.

Yours sincerely,  
P. A. VIRGO,  
2 Eastbourne Avenue,  
Accon, W3,  
February 27.

From Mr John McN. Dodgson

Sir,—The letter on February 20, "A word for the Vikings," did not quite hit off the word Viking. The suffix -ing is a common Germanic element, meaning "called after," associated with — descended from — and presents little difficulty. The first element is more arguable, and there is more to it than has been said.

The word Viking is a modern antiquarian revival, based on a mispronunciation of Old Norse *víkingr* (the initial pronounced as *v*). Old Norse *víkingr* was a noun, consisting of the word *vík*, "an inlet," "a bay," "a fjord," but it is just as likely to be derived from the other Old Norse word *víking*, "an expedition" and to mean "one who goes on an expedition."

This other Norse word, *víking*, "an expedition," is identical with the Old English (Anglo-Saxon) word *wicing*, "pirate," Scandinavian *veikr*, "raider." The basis is a word represented in Old English epic, "a trading-voyage," "a manufacturing settlement," "a market," ultimately from Latin *vicus*, "hamlet," "street," "precinct," "a town" and *cing*, in English place-names as *-wick*, *-wich*. So *wicing*, *víking*, would originally have to do with "going on the trading-voyage" or "one who frequents the markets." The pejorative connotations would arise from the forceful way in which some old Scandinavians drove a bargain.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
JOHN MCNEAL DODGSON,  
Reader in English,  
University College London,  
Gower Street, WC1,  
February 21.

From Mr M. C. Hendey

Sir, If Mr Arts Orga meant what Sir Denis Forman (February 20) says he meant, why did he not say so?

Yours faithfully,  
M. C. HENDEY,  
4 The Vernays,  
Old Bath Road,  
Cheltenham,  
Gloucestershire,  
February 22.

Sour notes for Mr Levin

From Miss M. E. Mackendrick

Sir, It was too trivial perhaps to mention in a Times obituary, but Mrs Alice Roosevelt Longworth's christian name was used for a particular shade of light blue which was highly popular for women's wear in the 1920s. This was understood to be a favourite colour of Theodore Roosevelt's daughter, although not worn by her. Hence "Alice" blue. The hit song from that time, "In my sweet little Alice blue gown," is still remembered and played.

Yours sincerely,  
M. E. MACKENDRICK,  
15 Farebrothers,  
Church Street,  
Wormham, West Sussex.

## Social Security frauds

From the Minister for Social Security

Sir, Par Healy's article, "Just where are all the scoundgers?" (February 27) is so confused and inaccurate that I feel obliged to comment.

She says that special regional drives to check on suspicious cases "do not confirm a substantial proportion of them". The region which has done more of these studies than any other sent a team to 13 different local offices and looked at 1,570 suspicious cases. The team found positive reasons to discontinue benefits in 838 cases—53 per cent of the total. The cases were, of course, especially selected and this outcome in no way suggests the level of fraud among claimants as a whole. But if Par Healy does not regard confirmation in 53 per cent of suspicious cases as "a substantial proportion", she has a more cavalier attitude to the taxpayer's money than I have. Other regions have had similar success rates with fraud drives. I hope the additional regional sources we are now making available will enable the Department to do more of these checks.

Miss Healy's reference to £4 million as being the "amount of fraud and abuse" is very misleading. This figure is the amount of past fraudulent overpayments which the Department wrote off, during one single year, as being irrecoverable. It is not a cumulative figure, relates only to fraud, and does not cover abuse (eg the costs of voluntary unemployment) which does not amount to fraud. And it does not relate to overpayments which the Department has recovered or hopes to recover. The figure does not purport to provide any sort of measure of discovered fraud overpayments, let alone undiscovered.

My officials do not estimate that the amount being lost through fraud and abuse is £53 million a year. The £53 million a year is the target saving for the additional 1,050 staff, as indeed her next paragraph implies. No one has claimed that this will mop up all the social security fraud and abuse that exists.

The article makes several references to the problem of encouraging fuller take-up of available benefits. I am deeply aware of this problem. Miss Healy says that far more money is saved in unclaimed benefits than is lost by fraud; that may or may not be true. But what I do believe is that if we can root out a really substantial amount of the fraud and abuse that at present exists in our social security scheme, the scheme will get a better reputation and genuine claimants will be much more ready to take up their rights.

Yours sincerely,  
REG PRENTICE,  
Minister for Social Security,  
Department of Health and Social Security,  
Alexander Fleming House,  
Elephant and Castle, SE1.

A doctor's time

From Mrs Susan M. Smith

Sir, Mr Davis Caro comments in The Times today (February 21), that one of his patients has wasted professional time in attending a court unnecessarily. I wonder if he has given thought to the fact that members of his own profession are by no means the only members of the public to be inconvenienced in such a way.

As a doctor himself, he may not recently have experienced the queues in hospital outpatients departments, and may not have realised that thousands of man hours that are wasted every day, up and down the country, by those waiting for attention in such departments. These waits are often unnecessarily long due to block bookings which, I understand, are intended to ensure that not one moment of the doctor's time shall be wasted should the majority of those booked in suddenly fail to keep their appointments.

As Mr Caro's last paragraph perhaps the authorities that organize hospitals will read this letter and devise a system which has more regard for the value of the time, not only of professionals, but also of other working people.

Yours faithfully,  
SUSAN M. SMITH,  
12 Oakcroft Road, SE13.

Worthy pioneer

From Mr Patrick Howarth

Sir, William Webb-Elis, the alleged founder of the game of rugby football, was not buried in Nice, as your diarist Ian Murray states (February 27). He was buried in Menton, where his grave is carefully tended through the good offices of the French rugby football federation.

The federation's concern with the grave followed the staging of a match in 1972 to mark the centenary of Webb-Elis's death—I use the word advisedly—of Rugby School and a team purporting to represent him.

One possible explanation of your diarist's error is that the so-called Menton team, which of course won the match, was heavily reinforced, causing a supporter of the Rugby School team, H. F. Ellis, the well known contributor of Punch, to describe the opposition as "Nice dressed up as Menton".

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK HOWARTH,  
219a King's Road, SW3.

Alice blue

From Miss M. E. Mackendrick







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## MADEIRA

## Top-quality service remains

Madreia used to be (and to some extent still is) a resort much favoured by older visitors. But since the 1960s—and the opening of Funchal airport and the coming of package tours—tourists are becoming younger. Yet the top-quality service and friendliness of the islanders remains.

Perhaps nowhere is this more true than in the five-star hotels in Funchal, the island's capital city. At Reid's—designed in the late Victorian period by the architect of the old Shepheard's in Cairo—the ratio of staff to guests is more than one to one. Here—in one of the leading hotels in the world—one can still admire the sub-tropical gardens from the veranda, read a daily newspaper in a club-like lounge, or dine in a high-ceilinged restaurant with red poinsettias on the tables.

In contrast, at the ultra-modern Casino Park hotel opened a few years ago and designed by Oscar Niemeyer (the architect of Brasília), one can see a regular floor-show, gamble at the new Casino, dance to a live band at its nightclub, the Zodiaco, under the star-like lights, or just enjoy its park setting. The natural courtesy of the islanders pervades the shops, pavement cafes, and sight-seeing stops frequented by those who have landed from a cruise ship or an aircraft.

The tourist board is not content to let it rest at that. As Mr Jose Ribeiro de Andrade, its director, puts it: "We want to keep the quality of our service. We also have to teach it." And so, this year, in the former first-class Hotel Avenida, a new

hotel school is being opened on the lines of the Vienna school. There, some 200 to 300 students a year will learn nearly everything associated with hotels—from management and languages to how to be a good waiter or cook.

This is not all. Inland, the mountains new pousadas or country inns, are being built (two on the west side of the island are already open). They will have limited accommodation and facilities for a drink or a meal. Snacks and picnic parks will be developed. All these are intended mainly to rest-haven for mountain walkers who like to stroll along the network of paths to the island, in graded walks. And those with children to amuse (apart from swimming in the many heated pools which nearly all the hotels have, or at least have access to) will be pleased to learn that a Tivoli-like project—the Zona de Lazer—is to be started this year.

At Zarcos Bay—on the north-eastern side of the island, near the airport—sporting activity holidays are being developed with the young in mind. Here, from Dom Pedro hotel, at Machico, Nick Keizer, a Dutch former water-polo player, runs courses for beginners in several sports, as well as programmes for experts. One can, for instance, take up wind surfing at a cost of £45 for 10 lessons, starting on a simulator.

One can play tennis for £1 an hour, hiring racket and balls; go deep sea fishing

in a Trojan boat for tuna, swordfish, or marlin at a cost of £25 per person per day, and if lucky land a record-breaking catch. (Two records were recently broken.) Also one can go water-skiing for £5 for 30 minutes round the bay, and on a ski-diving course for five days for £35, complete with wet-suits, snorkels and flippers. And there are football or water-polo matches in which to participate.

New by is the Matur village, of modern white villas and apartments, nestling in a complex with its own facilities. These include three restaurants (Pool restaurant, an Italian and a Madeiran restaurant); four bars; a night club; a bridge club; three swimming pools—one Olympic size, four tennis courts; volleyball, minigolf and children's playground; a shopping centre with supermarket, boutiques and hair-dresser and a laundry.

For those shopping in the village supermarket or other supermarkets servicing apartment blocks, prices compare favourably with those in Britain, especially considering that Madeira has to import about 80 per cent of what it consumes. A loaf of bread is about 7p; a litre of long-life milk from the Azores about 15p; a quarter kilo of butter about 33p; fruit such as apples and oranges about 30 to 40p a kilo. Coffee is about £1.50 for a large tin, though prices, such as that of local fish, are going up.

The British are still the island's best customers as far as the tourist trade is concerned: and they are increasing, according to the latest figures available. Though Portuguese outnumber them in terms of entries in the first half of 1979 the British spent 282,768 bed nights compared with 264,453 bed nights for the first half of 1978. Second, in terms of bed nights spent in Madeira for the first half of 1979, were the Germans. The Portuguese were third and France and Sweden followed.

There is much to delight the sightseer in Madeira. For those who like exploring by road (these are usually narrow and winding, following the contours of the hills and mountains) there are many scenic drives along the coastline or inland: Camacha (8km inland from Funchal) has a wicker-work factory where the men using only hammers, knives and pliers weave the supple rods into many objects ranging from high-backed chairs to shopping baskets. At Santa da Serra set in the woods—the Madeira's only golf course (at present nine holes) at Camara de Lobos ("Sesla Chamber" in Portuguese) is a picturesque fishing port with boats decorated in bright blues, yellows, greens and reds; at Cabo Girao one finds a sheer cliff 1,800 ft high from where one can gaze into the deep blue waters of the Atlantic.

At Pico do Serrado, after a spectacular walk one can view the floor of an extinct volcanic crater; and in Monte, a cool retreat full of flora, one can see the tomb of the last Emperor of Austria in the village church of Madeira's patron saint, Our Lady of the Mountain. Here, too, one can take a toboggan ride in a wickerwork sledge down steep cobbled paths guided by men in white and boots.

There is much to see in Funchal itself—the Flemish paintings (bartered for sugar in the sixteenth century) now hanging in the Museum of Sacred Art; the aquarium with an octopus and live fish among other exhibits of natural history in the municipal museum; the sixteenth-century cathedral with its ivory-carved ceiling and the colourful market and the Botanical Gardens. One can take a ride in an ox-cart belovied by cruise ships (which have included the QE2 and the Canberra) or merely sit in a pavement cafe near the waterfront and sip small coffees, known as bicas.

Several tour operators offer package trips this summer and prices vary according to hotel, duration of stay and season. Horizon, for example, quote from £150 an adult a week for apartment hotels, and from £250 for five-star hotels. Sovereign quotes Reid's at about £300 a week, depending on room. Enterprise flies from several regional British airports, and lists Hotel Dom Pedro at Machico. Thomson lists half-board at the Sheraton in the middle of summer from £250 and OSL offers two weeks at Matur holiday village from £181.

Guide books on Madeira are not plentiful. They include Portugal and Madeira by Sarah Bradford (1965); Portugal by Cedric Salter (1970) has a chapter on Madeira; the practical and comprehensive Sear's and the Camarines by Annemarie Pink and Paul Watkins (1976) with a new edition to be published this year. Then there is the compact Berlitz: Madeira—Somewhere Special published by Frank Conk and edited by John Carter; and Madeira and Porto Santo by Guido de Monterey—more poetic and literary in approach.

Pieter Zwart

## Scarcity of old wines and new vines

"Do you realize that this wine was made when Marie Antoinette was alive?" Sir Winston Churchill asked his fellow guests, paying tribute to a magnificent bottle of 1792 Sercial at a dinner at Reid's Hotel during his memorable visit to the island in 1950. Madeira is one of the few wines whose claims to remarkable longevity are both legendary and genuine, and fine old bottles are esteemed by connoisseurs.

These used to be under-priced compared with other venerable (but much less rare) wine from better publicized regions. This changed after local wine laws forbade the traditional export of old wines bearing the date of birth of the solera from which they had been drawn. This was to prevent abuse or misleading labelling.

Now wines from soleras dating back to the early nineteenth century are extremely rare, and the quantity of others from Victorian soleras is very small. They are likely to cost between £25 and £40 a bottle. Among firms which specialize in them are Avels of Bristol, Berry Brothers and Simon the Cellarier; Harrods always lists an interesting selection too. Mr David Cossart, director of Cossart Gordon, whose foundation in 1745 makes it the oldest British firm of shippers, tells me that sales came from the hybrid vines crossing while demand for

the general range of madeiras, which cost from about £3.35, is "most encouraging".

Last autumn Cossart Gordon held a remarkable London tasting where the oldest wine was a Malmsey Solera 1808. The colour of black coffee, it had a flowery subtle bouquet, and was still rich in flavour. There was also an outstanding Bual Solera 1822—paler in colour, extremely silky with extraordinary depth of flavour.

Revisiting Madeira last month, I learnt that a new law once again permits the export of solera wines, which must have a minimum age of 10 years. They will be allowed to have 10 per cent drawn off each year annually.

Ironically, while these old wines are so scarce, Madeira producers face that perennial European problem—the wine lake—created by their young vines. The 1979 vintage, the first abundant one after four poor years—yielded enough grapes to make about 15 million litres of wine (the average made is about 12 million).

Only 2,300,000 litres came from vines whose grapes are permitted by EEC statutes to be used for Madeira exported to countries within the Community, traditionally the best customers. The rest came from the hybrid vines cultivated there for many

years because these are easier to tend and with higher yield. Madeira has about five thousand small farmers engaged in viticulture; the 3,000 acres of vineyards are divided up into many smallholdings, the average size being 500 sq metres. Most of these are planted on high trellises on terraced hillsides up to a height of more than 2,000 ft above sea level.

"Would you in England like to work the land under such conditions?" a farmer asked as we walked up to look at his vines. Picturesque as they seem to visiting tourists—they are in spectacularly beautiful scenery—these vineyards need heroic toil and few are planted far enough apart for tractors to be used.

Over the past 10 years gradual replanting has been made under a government scheme to encourage the cultivation of internationally acceptable non-hybrid vines with cash subsidies and other help to farmers until the young vines reach productive size. But the traditionally conservative farmers have shown great resistance to change, and an added problem is the shortage of manpower, for most of the young Madeirans who used to work on the land now emigrate to find better-paid jobs abroad.

Mr Anthony Miles, one of the directors of the

Madreia Wine Association, which groups together the firms of Blandy, Leacock, Cossart, Gordon, Rutherford, Miles and Lomeline, told me in Funchal: "It is essential for us to defend our own technology, our traditional method of making Madeira and to achieve a special EEC statute to define exactly what Madeira really is. This will preserve its authenticity."

Mr Mario Barbeito, a veteran producer, head of the house of Barbeito (shipped to Britain by Dehnbard), said: "We need to make big changes in our viticulture and also to seek new markets for our finer wines."

Until now the bulk of Madeira shipped to EEC countries was grown from hybrid grapes with a major share going to France for use as cooking wine. From January no more could be exported to the French—will have to do without their source madeira. Madeira producers consider that the Portuguese Government should have been much more forceful in defending the situation of the growers during the EEC discussions and obtained a longer period in which to make changes in their viticulture.

Tasting wine in the traditional office of producers is a special pleasure in Madeira. From one of the veterans, Senhor Alberto Jardim, of Henriques and Henriques (shipped by Atkinson Baldwin), I learnt that his best seller, 1512 Sesla malmsey, complements oxtail soup, and can be served equally well with cheese as with puddings. Harrods lists Henriques and Barbeito's delectably nutty dry golden Sercial, and Harveys of Bristol have a range of its wines.

Barbeito's island dry, light amber and pleasantly fruity, is a popular aperitif in Madeira. Barbeito's lodges near Reid's Hotel are visited by many tourists, and enjoying the unusually clear February sunshine, many find their way to the well-preserved old lodges of the Madeira Wine Association in the heart of Funchal. These offer hospitable free tastings and a fine selection of wines to buy from about £1.80 a bottle.

Funchal's market is lively and captivating, its pavilion brilliant with bougainvillea and a dazzling display of glossy avocados and autumnal delicacies like pawpaw, loquats and passion fruit (which can be used as hors d'oeuvre or made into cordials and liqueurs).

There are superb vegetables unjustly neglected by some hotels. The newest luxury hotel, the Casino Park, makes good use of local produce on its menus (try their avocado soup) and their grillroom, with marvellous views of the lights of Funchal, is recommended. Next door the Casino's top floor restaurant serves a remarkable four-course dinner (including cabaret) for well under £7. Reid's, which maintains its famous atmosphere of Edwardian languor, serves the best teas in great style, while the Sheraton's cosy grillroom is renowned for its good meat.

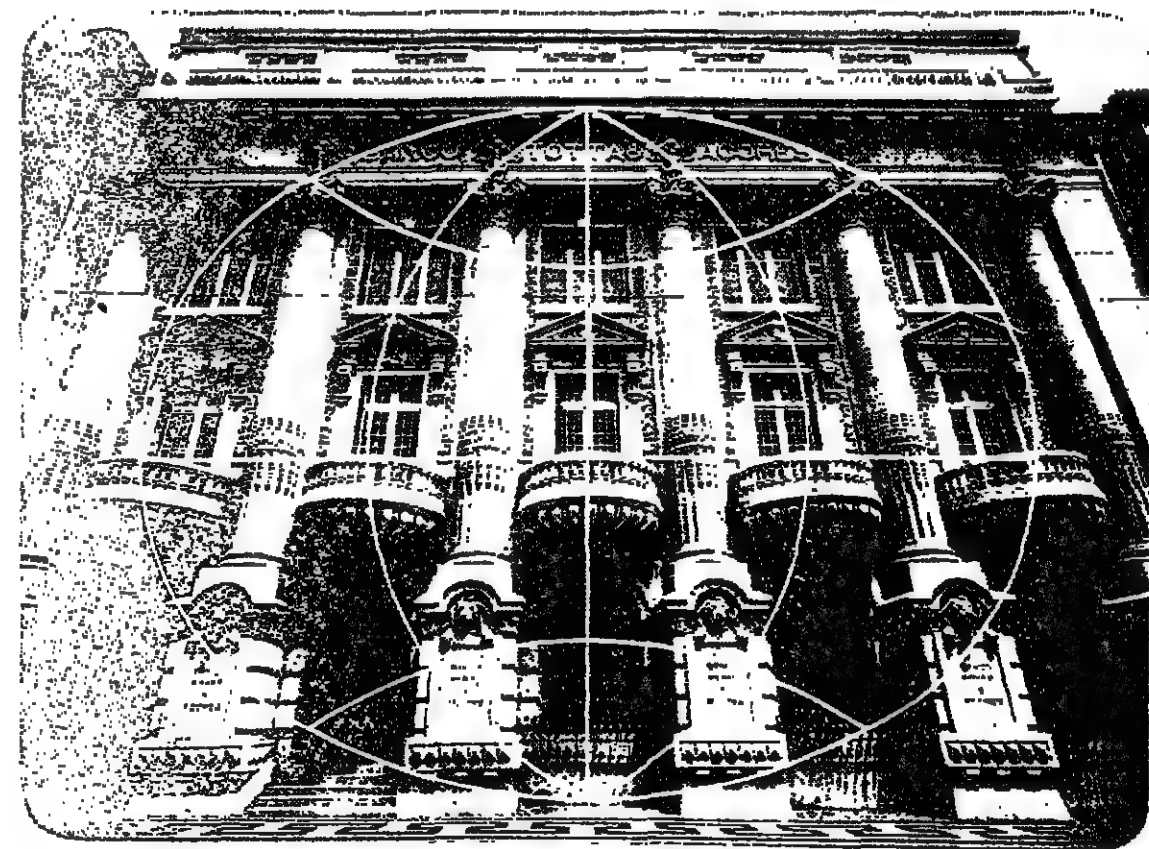
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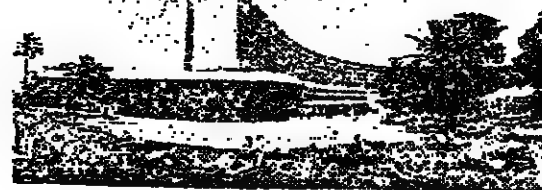


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## Issue of autonomy becomes more urgent

continued from previous page

was frustrated by the central Government, and the group has become a well-known bird sanctuary.

The issue of the autonomy of both Madeira and the Azores has latterly become more and more urgent. Senhor Alberto Jose Jardim, president of Madeira's Regional Assembly, is pressing for it. This tough and energetic young politician looks to 1980 as "a year of optimistic possibilities".

Senhor Jardim told Portugal's national news agency that he has achieved a more positive attitude from the main party and its Madeira branch.

"I cannot sacrifice Madeira to the PSD, but I can sacrifice the PSD to save Madeira," he declared. The head of the Madeira Government accused the local church authorities of being against the PSD and its government. Actually his government lacks the stimulus which an active Parliamentary opposition can bring. He added that nevertheless, his government has achieved a more forceful personality for the archipelago and had given financial support to local administrative bodies. It had also provided a properly trained administrative officials.

PSD party opinion in Madeira has so far not disclosed whether or not it will support the candidacy of General Ramalho Eanes for a second term as President when the presidential elections take place later this year.

The Portuguese and Madeira governments met together in Lisbon at the end of January, and discussed thoroughly such vital

matters as they considered at this meeting will be for national relationship. This was the first time that the two Cabinets had met in this way. A second meeting is scheduled to take place in June in Funchal with the presence of not only the Lisbon Central Government but also that of the Azores. The President of the Madeira basic subject for discussion

Parliament has also presented for consideration the statute for his own area. In these days, when even the Shetland Islands thirst for freedom, it is more than likely that the spirit of independence may also pass invisibly over Portugal's discussion with its island group leaders during these meetings.

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MADEIRA

## A passion for plants

Searching for unusual plants on Madeira may not sound tedious, but if you take your time to the side roads you may be in for a surprise. Madeira is a mountainous island, and the hinterland has pinnacles and ravines with steep sloping forests. These places provide many different habitats for plant life.

Ever since 1768, when Sir Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander, on Captain Cook's Endeavour visited Madeira, and a few years later, when Francis Masson collected plants there, botanists have been excited by the remarkable flora to be found on the island.

It was another Englishman, the Rev Richard Thomas Lowe, who first studied the plants carefully. Lowe was a chaplain who spent more than 25 years on the island, and natural history was his lifelong passion. In 1868, with typical Victorian care and attention to detail, he produced *A Manual Flora of Madeira*, which remains the only comprehensive account of Madeiran flora. It was to be the model for a series by Lowe on the animal life. He was drowned off the Scilly Isles on returning to England in 1874 and the book was never completed.

Tourists visiting Funchal are amazed by the avenues of blue jacaranda trees. In a little park beside the main street grow huge palms and bamboos from more tropical climates. Out of the town blue agapanthus lilies line the roads, with the white flowers of the *Scilla* and the *Hyacinthus* in the garden. The *Scilla* is a small plant with a single flower, but the *Hyacinthus* is a large plant with many flowers. The *Scilla* is a native of the island, but the *Hyacinthus* is a recent introduction. The *Scilla* is a native of the island, but the *Hyacinthus* is a recent introduction. The *Scilla* is a native of the island, but the *Hyacinthus* is a recent introduction.

The endemics include some of the wonders of the plant kingdom. Many of them are unusually large and woody, belonging to genera and families which are small and herbaceous elsewhere. The best example is the *Laurel*, which is a large tree with a thick trunk and a dense canopy of leaves. It is a native of the island and is one of the most important plants in the forest. The *Laurel* is a native of the island and is one of the most important plants in the forest.

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## Taking to the sands at the holy port

The first time I strolled down to the beach at Porto Santo, I saw a jolly grandmother, beautifully coiffed, rapidly and skilfully burying herself, until only her head, hands and toes were to be seen, beneath a mound of sand. An eccentric foreigner, we assumed, but we were wrong—she was a Madeiran woman convinced that the therapeutic qualities of the sand, reputed to have radioactive elements would be good for her rheumatism.

This was soon endorsed by an American fellow guest at the hotel, who recommended it for my recently-mended broken ankle. The sand bath was deliciously warm and soothing, and I noticed a

number of other visitors followed suit, the Germans, not surprisingly, with some solemnity.

Porto Santo—the holy port—lies 28 miles north-east of its big sister island of Madeira, and was discovered by Zarco and Teixeira, the Portuguese explorers, in 1418, a year before they set foot in Madeira. They gave it the present name in gratitude for their safe arrival, though about 10 miles long, and three miles across at its widest point, Porto Santo looks from the air as sun-scorched and bare in places as many Greek islands.

Ironically, for such a small place, it has a magnificent airfield (used by Nato) capable of receiving the largest jets, which Madeira's much shorter runway cannot accommodate. There are now daily services between the two islands by Air Portugal's small aircraft, and several landings a week by jet liners en route to and from Lisbon.

More adventurously, you take the three-hour sea trip on a sturdy motor vessel, Pirata Azul (not for queasy sailors). On a summer Sunday it was so packed that many passengers were standing on the upper deck, and I would estimate that nearly half were seasick. As there was a barely perceptible swell, I asked the captain about this. He replied, rather morosely: "But the Portuguese here are generally poor sailors."

If you can stand the sea, it is a memorable voyage, especially if you are lucky, and the vessel is followed by a huge school of dolphins, racing and leaping alongside. You arrive at a

long jetty, facing due south, at Vila Baleira, the island's small and sleepy capital. It has a delightful old square and parish church, and with some persistence (for it is not supposed to be there) you may see the house where they say Christopher Columbus lived, after marrying the daughter of the governor, Bartolomeu Perestrelo. Vila Baleira has a few modest cafés and simple restaurants—some are rather like glorified abattoirs, painted in bright ice cream colours. They are by the beach, and recommended for sardines and chicken grilled over braziers.

The beach is the kind which people from harsh northern climates dream about, and it is a magnet for Madeirans in summer. The sands stretch in a gentle curve for seven kilometres, with not one high building or tasteless mass development to spoil the view. There are a few simple pensions (the Central looks the nicest) and the rentable flats and villas are filled mainly with Madeirans and Portuguese.

Mr John Perriss, director of Sunspots of Witney, one of the leading tour operators to Madeira, pioneered holidays to Porto Santo four years ago, using a pension, now closed, and the charming Villa Adelaide (which can sleep up to eight people). "I could let this many times over, and I am looking for other villas to meet the demand. People who want a really peaceful and restful holiday love it," he says. Two weeks there if it is shared by four people costs from £190 in April (not Easter) to £238 in high summer (including flights).

Last summer a most attractive hotel, the Porto Santo, discreetly built on two floors, was reopened after rebuilding by the Penina group from the Algarve. You walk across Bermuda grass through the garden straight on to the beach. The hotel is very restfully decorated, with good food and drinking aperitifs on the veranda, the only evening sounds you hear are the bleat of goats and the braying of donkeys. You can watch people going home from the day's work in their fields, and there is the scent of wood smoke. A short walk away is the

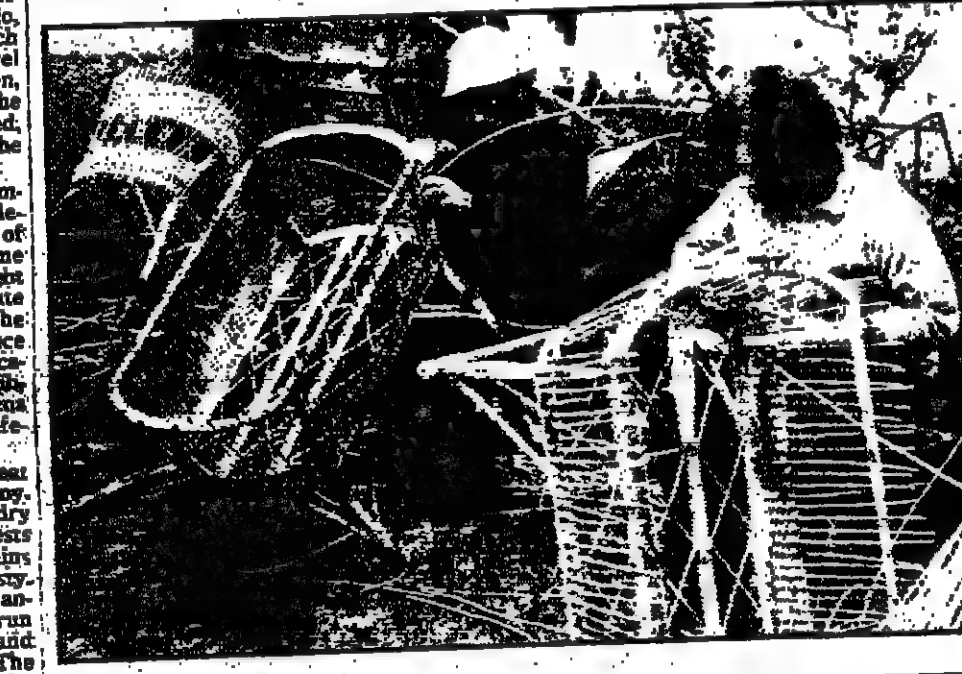
Adega Espirito Santo (Cellar of the Holy Spirit) where you taste the heady golden Porto Santo wine—delicious when properly matured (there is also a good dry local red, very hard to find).

Taxis are cheap to hire, and bus trips will show you a lot of the island for about £1. There are lovely hills and plains dotted with windmills, where flour is ground in the traditional way (so the bread is superb). They grow beautiful figs and tomatoes and the local mineral water is very salty, for tap water is very salty, and will be until plans for a big desalination scheme are carried out. A retired English couple, Mr and Mrs Raleigh Krohn, who live in a remarkable windmill house, occasionally welcome visitors and particularly welcome vegetarians and Yoga enthusiasts—"I teach Yoga, and would love to found a centre here," Mrs Krohn tells me.

J.R.



The village of Camara de Lobos has a natural harbour. Below: Madeiran wicker-work is a favourite with tourists.



## Bleak outlook for the property seeker

For those who dream about a holiday or retirement home in Madeira the outlook is rather bleak than its weather. For although prices may compare with the more desirable parts of Britain, there is little property about to be sold. Renting villas or flats—except for apartment hotels—is also difficult.

Yet Madeira has all the attractions of other islands in the sea such as the Canaries, Majorca and Malta. For the property seeker, it has a mild climate all the year round—neither too hot nor too cold—with plenty of sunshine. It has a well-established English community, going back many decades, which even started its own country club. Although the island is Portuguese, English is generally spoken—or at least understood. And Funchal, its capital city, has a variety of traditional shops—apart from its colourful fruit, fish and flower market—and modern supermarkets.

There are several reasons why property developers have shied off this island in the sun. The building boom of hotels in the early and mid-1970s, largely backed by Portuguese money, is over.

Interest rates and inflation are part of the cause.

But there are other reasons—typically Madeiran. It is a small, mountainous island with not much ground available. Madeiran emigrants who have become rich in South Africa, Brazil or Venezuela and seek to return, put their money into land on the island. The only alternative is to invest in bank deposits since there are no stock markets, building societies or investment trusts.

The law relating to land is still governed by the Napoleonic code which dictates that on the death of a widow or widower it is divided equally between all the sons. This means that negotiating for land can be complicated—one can find oneself dealing with 10 or 15 owners for a small country club. Although the island is Portuguese, English is generally spoken—or at least understood. And Funchal, its capital city, has a variety of traditional shops—apart from its colourful fruit, fish and flower market—and modern supermarkets.

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For a small flat, one kilometre from the centre of Funchal, one could pay about £30,000. It would comprise two bedrooms, a living room, a bathroom and kitchen, a small terrace and a car parking space. A three-bedroom villa in the suburbs of Funchal, with a garage and 500 sq metres of garden, could cost about £60,000. It is difficult to lease a flat, but tourists can rent a small studio flat in an apartment hotel with services for between £10 and £12 a day. This consists of one bedroom, a living room, a bathroom and kitchenette.

On the north-east side of the island, near Machico, land may be half the price but construction costs, because of the delivery of raw materials, may be double. Land would cost about £20 a sq metre, but construction costs would be about £250 a sq metre. Demand outstrips supply for offices in Funchal—the rate is about £2 a sq metre a month, if one can find an office. A new tourist development company, CIEP, is building flats to be rented or sold on two good sites in Madeira. But most—if not all—new development is sold off the drawing board.

The answer for the earnest property seeker in Madeira may be to spend some time on the island and try to find a villa or flat through word of mouth. But this apart, from being time-consuming, is fraught with uncertainty.

P.Z.

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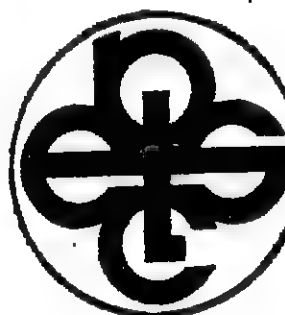
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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

## Pre-Budget taxation

## How the taxman makes a gift still more valuable

How do you make a gift which costs you £70 but could be worth £100 to the person who receives it?

The answer is a deed of covenant.

In simple terms, a deed of covenant is a legal undertaking binding one person to make regular gifts to another. The person making the gift, the donor, deducts tax from the gift at the basic rate (30 per cent) from the gift, and pays the net amount to the beneficiary or in the case of children the 'beneficiaries' trustees.

If the gross gift is £100, the donor deducts £30 and pays the remaining £70 over to the beneficiary. The deduction of £30 does not have to be paid over to the Inland Revenue because the donor is entitled to tax relief at the basic rate on such qualifying payments.

For the beneficiary, the gift takes on the nature of investment income on which he is fully taxable. However, if the beneficiary's total income, including the gift, is below the level of his personal tax allowance (£1,155 for 1979-80), then he can claim from the Inland Revenue the basic rate tax which the donor has deducted from the gift.

So the beneficiary who received £70 net from the donor can claim a further £30 from the Inland Revenue. He ends up with £100 to spend on his own or on his children.

Why, you may be asking, have people not been doing this for years? Of course they have for charities, but only to a limited extent or on a one-off basis. Until the current year, the child tax allowance available to parents was reduced by £1 for every £1 that the child's income exceeded certain limits. However, as child allowances in most cases were abolished on April 6, last year, these limits no longer apply.

There is no tax advantage to be gained where a parent

## DEED OF COVENANT

1. (name of person making the gift) covenant to pay to (name of child) (of address of child) a gross amount of £— (the gift before tax is deducted) the following date in each year namely (today's date) for the period of seven years, or for the period of our joint lives (whichever is the shorter period) the first payment to be made on (today's date) dated (today's date) signed, sealed and delivered by (signature of donor) in the presence of (signature of witness) (address of witness) "Where the payment is to a minor beneficiary, then the funds should receive the funds as trustees."

makes gifts under a covenant to his own children, unless the children are over the age of 18 (or are married). The income under the covenant continues to be regarded as the parent's income for tax purposes.

A deed of covenant is, however, an ideal method of supplementing the grant of a student child; this is because the income of a person over the age of 18 is not added to his parents' income, even if it is derived from a gift from his parents.

But remember, students often have vacation jobs and if their vacation earnings could become taxable.

Covenanted payments do not normally count as part of the student's income for calculating grant allowances unless the student is treated as being "independent". "Independent" generally means that the student has supported himself for at least three years before he started his course and is over 25 years old.

The tax advantages that can be obtained by a deed of covenant are very valuable and it is important that you draw it up correctly. In the first place, the period of payment must be

for at least seven years. The deed must be irrevocable; although if the payments are stopped either by mutual agreement between the two parties or, for instance, because of the death of the covenantor, it should not affect the tax position of previous payments.

The covenantor can agree to pay weekly, monthly or annual amounts and the payments can be either for a fixed sum or made according to some agreed formula such as a fixed proportion of the covenantor's income. The deed itself must be dated, signed and the signature witnessed by a third party.

The document must also be sealed — normally done by sticking on a small disc of red paper — because without this seal the deed is not legally enforceable. The deed must then be handed over to the beneficiary or trustees. Finally, in Scotland the additional words "as holograph" should be written above the covenantor's signature, if the deed is not written in his own handwriting.

The beneficiary should obtain Form R185(AP) from the Inland Revenue and submit this with a claim form. Both these forms can be obtained from the Inspector of taxation.

You may now be thinking — if you have a devoted turn of mind — of how to reward friends or even grandparents who would enter into deeds of covenant in favour of your children. Or you may be thinking of making a deed of covenant in favour of a friend's child in return for his making a deed of covenant in favour of your child. The difficulty is that such reciprocal arrangements are not permitted and in fact amount to tax evasion, a subject on which the Inland Revenue can become quite sensitive.

Mr Philip Harris, whose ambition was to head a public company, has effectively won control of his second acquisition since taking the Harris Henderson-Kentons share.

Mr Harris has been in control of the Harris Henderson-Kentons share since taking the Harris Henderson-Kentons share.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

## Stock markets

## Oils make the running alone

Oils provided the main feature in an otherwise dull market yesterday, as dealers squared their books ahead of the weekend.

Oil prices were largely neglected, as investors cautiously kept an eye on increasing interest rates abroad, while equities encountered a little profit taking following the previous two days' activity — which had seen many buyers return to the market.

However, with the KCI figures out of the way, the market was left to its own devices and began to drift slowly as soon as trading resumed.

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## Latest results

Company Sales Profit Dividend

Episcopus Hedges (1) 3,899(3.55) 0.3(0.2) 0.4(0.33)

Spiral Horn 5,815(4.4) 0.38(0.62) 0.5(0.35)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. \* = per cent.

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## Clothes store Wearwell is

thriving store watchers. Chairman Mr. A. N. Nair is making

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## International

## Record result by Matsushita Electric

Matsushita Electric Industrial's consolidated net profit and sales for the year to November 20 were records, supported by steady consumer spending in the domestic market and recovery of exports in the second half.

Net profits of the parent company and its 121 consolidated subsidiaries in the year totalled 98,329bn yen, up 10.2 per cent from the previous year's 89,228bn yen. Sales increased by 10.1 per cent to 2,353 trillion yen from 2,134 trillion yen.

Sales of video tape recorders, air-conditioning equipment, washing machines and telecommunication equipment showed brisk gains from the year before, with the help of healthy industrial consumption. The yen's decline in the second half of the year was another factor that pushed up earnings.

Exports expanded 5 per cent to 806.6bn yen from 779.8bn yen the year before.

## Massey-Ferguson

Conrad M. Black, chairman of Massey-Ferguson, told the annual meeting that the company's financial base is not yet strong enough to support the resumption of common share dividends "and I can't foresee their resumption in 1980," he said.

Mr Black said the company hopes to pay all dividend arrears on its preferred shares by October 31, subject to certain conditions.

## Fiat &amp; Peugeot

Fiat and Peugeot-Citroen will invest \$200m to merge the operations of their Argentine affiliates Fiat-Automobiles and Sefar-Peugeot, the companies said in a joint statement.

The link-up will be in line with the Argentine Government's law in force for overhauling the domestic motor industry, to achieve economies of scale and make it more competitive in overseas markets.

## Recent Issues

ABN Bank 17%  
Barclays Bank 17%  
BCCI Bank 17%  
Consolidated Crs 17%  
C. Hoare & Co 17%  
Lloyds Bank 17%  
London Mercantile 17%  
Midland Bank 17%  
Nat Westminster 17%  
Rothmans 17%  
SBS 17%  
Williams and Glyn's 17%

## Bank Base Rates

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Barclays Bank 17%  
BCCI Bank 17%  
Consolidated Crs 17%  
C. Hoare & Co 17%  
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London Mercantile 17%  
Midland Bank 17%  
Nat Westminster 17%  
Rothmans 17%  
SBS 17%  
Williams and Glyn's 17%

## M. J. H. Nightingale &amp; Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane, London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

## The Over-the-Counter Market

1-7/8	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yld	P/E
99	70	69	Airspan Group	70	-1	6.7	9.4
50	36	35	Armstrong & Rhodes	36	-	3.8	10.6
235	185	184	Barnard Hill	235	-	13.8	5.9
100	85	84	County Cars Pref	85	-	15.3	18.0
101	63	62	Deborah Ltd	63	-2	5.0	5.4
99	84	83	Frank Horsell	99	-1	7.9	8.0
129	100	99	Frederick Parker	100	-	12.8	11.8
156	102	101	George Blair	105	-	16.5	15.7
66	45	44	Jackman Group	66	-1	5.2	7.9
153	113	112	James Burroughs	116	-	7.2	6.2
300	242	241	Robert Jenkins	255	-2	31.3	12.3
232	175	174	Torday Limited	217	-1	14.3	6.6
34	16	15	Twinkl Ord	19	-1	0.8	4.3
80	70	69	Twinkl 12 ULS	76	-	12.0	15.8
56	23	22	Unilock Holdings	30	-	2.6	5.2
85	42	41	Walter Alexander	85	-	4.4	3.1
190	136	135	W. S. Yeates	181	-1	11.5	6.3

\* Accounts prepared under provision of SSAP15.

## BANKRUPT

but rare old Russian and Chinese bonds have proved a better investment than shares, property, coins, antiques or stamps over the last few years. This is still a relatively new field, unaffected by inflation, strikes, depression and currency risks, but the supply of the rarer bonds is rapidly drying up.

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Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

## Wall Street

New York, Feb 29.—Stocks moved higher after active trading this morning despite another price rise. Several banks moved to 16 1/2 per cent from 16 1/4.

The Commerce Department reported a fall of 0.7 per cent in the January index of leading indicators after a revised December fall of 0.2 per cent that had originally been reported unchanged.

The Dow Jones Industrial average gained two points and advanced 14 points to 1,184.44. Among early gainers, US Shoe rose 1 1/2 to 20 1/2, Rockwell Brothers 1 1/2 to 18 and active Tandy 1 1/2 to 37 1/2.

## Gold edges up

New York Feb 29.—Gold at NY closed at 360.75, up 1/4 from 360.50. The price of gold in London was 360.75, up 1/4 from 360.50. The price of gold in Zurich was 360.75, up 1/4 from 360.50. The price of gold in Hong Kong was 360.75, up 1/4 from 360.50. The price of gold in Tokyo was 360.75, up 1/4 from 360.50. The price of gold in Sydney was 360.75, up 1/4 from 360.50. The price of gold in Melbourne was 360.75, up 1/4 from 360.50. The price of gold in Auckland was 360.75, up 1/4 from 360.50. The price of gold in Wellington was 360.75, up 1/4 from 360.50. The price of gold in Christchurch was 360.75, up 1/4 from 360.50. The price of gold in Dunedin was 360.75, up 1/4 from 360.50. The price of gold in Invercargill was 360.75, up 1/4 from 360.50. The price of gold in Tairāhema was 360.75, up 1/4 from 360.50. The price of gold in Whangarei was 360.75, up 1/4 from 360.50. The price of gold in Auckland was 360.75, up 1/4 from 360.50. 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Philippa Toomey

## ON DESIGN

## Furniture from France

It was a romantic moment. There we were, rolling down the Seine on a summer evening. Just as we passed Notre Dame, one of my back teeth fell out. Things are not always what they seem. I was, in fact, at work. We—five Britons, three Danes, six Finns, three Norwegians and two Swedes—were there to tour furniture factories in that part of France known as La Vendée. In despair to find a corporate description for so varied a band, the French called us "la presse nordique".

Many of the French furniture companies remain quite small, beginning as a one man business, and expanding cautiously into factories and into the export trade, but remaining a craft industry. From a nest of luxury, calm and voluptuous at the Hotel Baldimore in Paris to Nantes on a bar's back at 8 am from Charles de Gaulle airport, starting out on the serious business. La Vendée is a region of France below Brittany and on the Atlantic coast, where echoes of the furious and ghastly civil war which broke out shortly after the revolution can still be sensed.

Off in buses to the factories of Arthur Bonnet—a family business indeed, founded in 1927 as a workshop by Monsieur Arthur Bonnet and now run by his five sons. One place pour chaque Bonnet, chaque Bonnet a sa place", said M Guy, the managing director, with Messieurs Arthur, René, Joel and Yves in evidence, all bearing a strong family likeness.

The company makes among the first five leading kitchen manufacturers in Europe, with a range of styles. At the extremely attractive kitchen centre in Nantes the press liked the clean, modern lines of styles like "Roussillon" shown here, from the Comera company, acquired by the Bonnet group only last year.

The French public prefers a heavier wood finish, as in "Rambouillet"—which requires a surprising amount of hand finishing by the craftsmen. The factory makes only to order—there is therefore no stock. Each order for a kitchen goes through the process individually, stacked in one large carton, so that nothing we were assured, would or could be lost, or stray, from the final delivery, and that this delivery date was 100 per cent guaranteed.

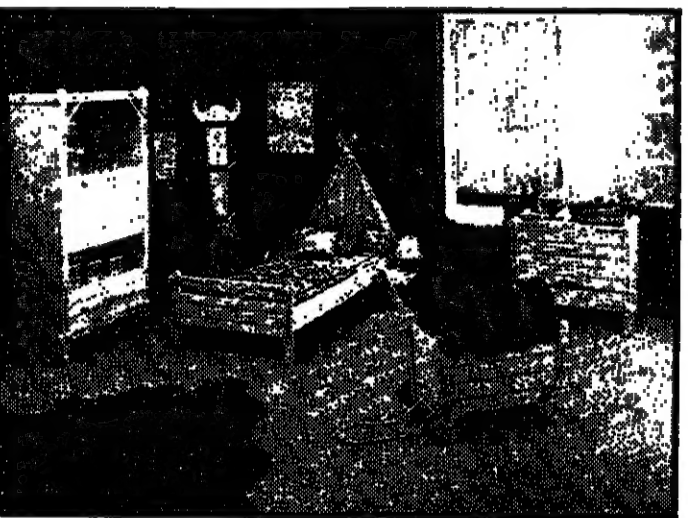
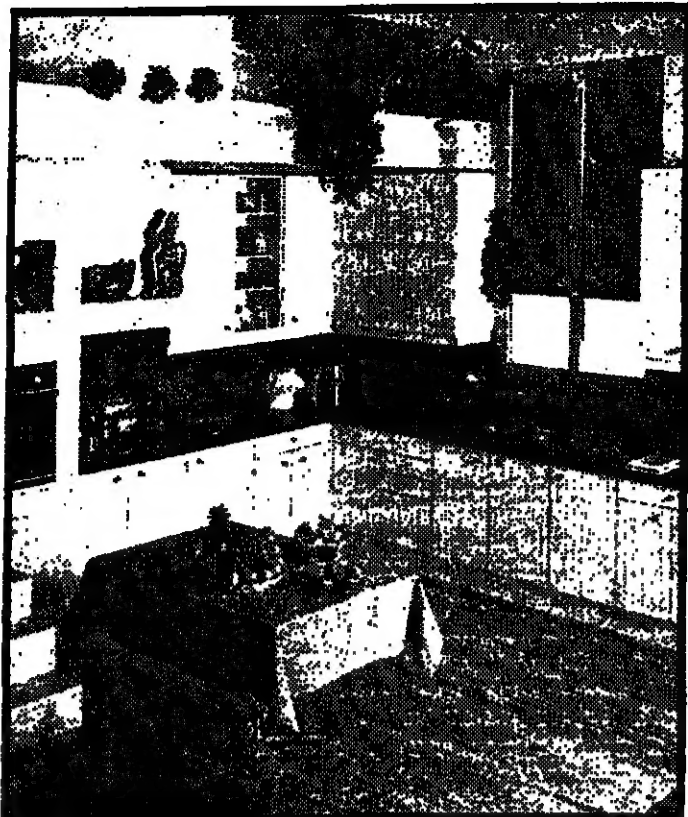
As these two points cause the majority of complaints in this country—waiting for weeks, sometimes months, only to find something missing, something wrong, left hand doors instead of right, no handles—we did hope that the Bonnets were on the right track. Certainly it all looked incredibly neat, and there is possibly a French proverb for a tidy mind and a tidy factory resulting in correctly completed orders. Everything, in short, "a sa place" as well as Bonnets. Moreover, all the paperwork has been computerized, and we were shown with justifiable pride the computer room, newly installed. We found this to be general, rather than our surprise.

After a while the bellow of the circular saws and the extremely strong smell of varnish and glue got too much for la presse nordique. First they fed us a delicious lunch. Then M Guy took pity on us and led us across the road from the factory to his own house, from which vantage he can keep a keen eye on the white lorries with red and blue bands coming and going, and offered us champagne.

Granted that we all need a lot more practice before we feel Europeans, the company of Scandinavians made one feel dreadfully ashamed of our English insularity. There they all were, Danes, Swedes and Norwegians, understanding each other by (possibly) osmosis, getting their technical information either from the French or from the English translation. Maria-Lena Markku from Finland spoke all the Scandinavian languages, in addition to Finnish (which is like nothing else on earth), English and French, though she said her German was not quite so good. She picked them up, she said, from reading detective stories. No one expects the English to speak anything but English. It's mortifying, but true.

Someone with a passion for the dawn's early light had us all in coaches at 5.15 the following morning on the way to the Gautier enterprise, one of whose specialities is teenage furniture. This was something few of us had come across before—either you were small enough to have a cot or large enough for a bed, with nothing in between. Patrick Gautier, the moving spirit in this company, which he founded in 1960, started as a craftsman, following in his father's footsteps. He now employs 1,700 and whizzed us cheerfully round the factories (the noise and the smell of varnish is the same everywhere), and on to the restored chateau where the company has as a conference centre and show room, which can also be used for parties and receptions by members of the staff. Great thoughts and sales conferences also take place there, and as a final, very practical inducement to thought, there is no telephone.

Lunch was delicious, after our tour of the delightful (and funny) teenage furniture, of which "Apache" is shown here. What happens is teenage furniture when you grow up? I thought the rotem pole might graduate from satchels and blazers to hats and hand-



Above and right: Gautier: Teenage furniture, the Apache, Nautilus and Racing Car bed.

Below right: Alain Delon design for dining table, chairs and sofa, available from Maples.

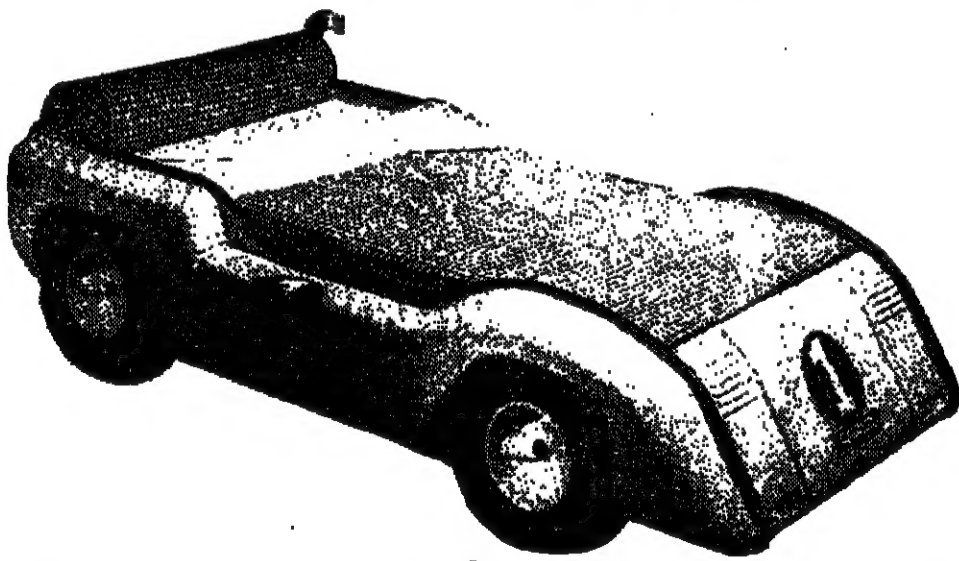
Beryl Downing is on holiday and will be back with Shop-around next week.

bags, and the toy bin (sorry, covered cages) would be just the job for shoes, but people might just narrow their gaze as they viewed the wigwam bedhead for anyone, say, over the age of 13. The cupboards (both the motor car bed, which I thought tremendous fun.)

I suppose you could put it in the spare bedroom, perhaps, like the motor car bed, which I thought tremendous fun. M Gautier was Man of the Month on the local television, so we watched him while eating dinner at Au Capitaine, a sea food restaurant at the seaside resort of Les Sables d'Olonne. He was a generous host: we all had a splendid time wrestling with crochets, hooks and pliers and our seafood, getting back to our hotel in Pouzauges at half past one in the morning.

All the manufacturers told us that there was no labour problem, and that none of them could remember the last time they had a strike. There would, on the other hand, be little employment apart from agriculture, if there were not the furniture business. M Gautier quoted Henri VI's phrase "Pauvre et laborieux—les deux manières de la France" a notion which loses a great deal in translation, but it's one or the other for the workforce.

The Bonnets said that they required their employees to keep up a steady pace, not too fast, not too slow. Impossible to judge how the workforce felt, in their blue, or orange and yellow overalls. I envied them their bright and sparkling staff canteens and their excellent and appetizing menus. If all the world had a decent lunch, it would be a happier place.



Slightly worn at the edges, but still game, we rose early the next day and went on to Benoteau, a leading manufacturer of furniture in solid wood. Joseph Benoteau started the company in 1937 with two workmen and one apprentice. Now they have two specialities, the "rustic" range, and a new series of modern styles, created in 1974 by the designer Jean-Claude Maugirard. It is hard to describe adequately what the French call rustic.

It is immensely popular—there are 2,500 outlets for the rustic furniture, as opposed to 150 for the modern, and 45 per



Top left: Arthur Bonnet: Roussillon kitchen from the Comera range.

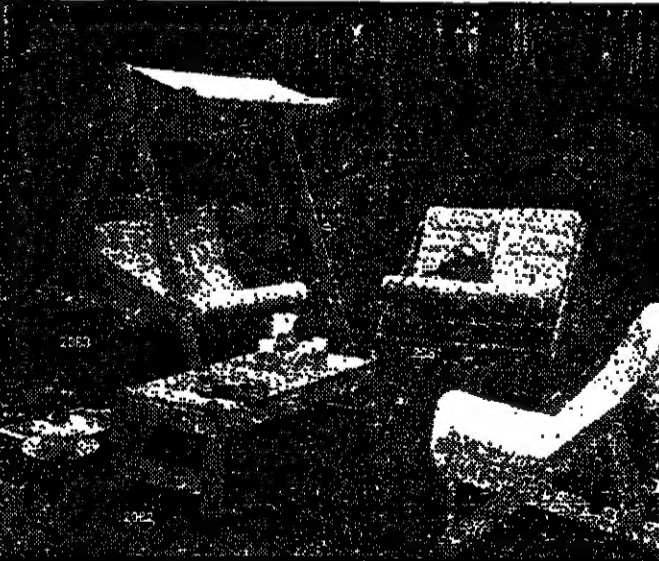
Above left: Arthur Bonnet: Rambouillet kitchen.

Above: Benoteau: "Barn" designs by Jean-Claude Maugirard, in solid chestnut.



Above: Benoteau: "Land" designs by Jean-Claude Maugirard, in solid pine.

Left: Tro Pic: The Datcha collection of garden furniture.



with the utmost charm, energy and enthusiasm, being called upon at a moment's notice to translate (in the absence of an interpreter) any and every piece of information of the most technical nature without any visible turning of well groomed hair.

Paris looked beautiful, sunlit and wonderfully clean in June. In January it was freezing, spotless, grey skies and still beautiful as I went out, again at the invitation of the French Salon du Meuble to see the big furniture exhibition at the Parc des Expositions at the Porte de Versailles.

Each year it is either an International exhibition or a national one—this year it was for French furniture only, held the week before the gigantic, exhaustive (and, by all accounts, exhausting) international furniture exhibition at Cologne. To my delight some of the survivors of the trip to the Vendée arrived—two Danes, two Norwegians, one Finn, but Austrians, Dutch, one other Briton and a lone Japanese, who spoke no European language, brave man.

The exhibition was for the trade only, and was crowded with people who were taking it very seriously indeed. There were huge stands from our friends from the summer, Bonnet, Gautier and Benoteau—with an enormous kitchen and garden furniture section, acres of modern furniture, plus the rustic numbers, in one of which I counted 10 cupboards, three drawers, two display shelves and a pull out bar. Some extremely sinister bedside lamps in the shape of crash helmets loomed over a teenage bed on the Gautier stand—just the thing for your own little Hell's Angel.

Some of the modern furniture was remarkably dreadful in shades of puce and mauve, but much more was very elegant in a Hollywood or Art Deco style, lots of black and cream lacquer, with brass trim, as shown here. I stopped, in the kitchen section, enchanted by Le Compactor Rossignol, a neat little rubbish compactor rather smaller than a normal sized dustbin, which will ruthlessly crush your tins and rubbish into a neat oblong, some eight to ten times diminished from its original volume. It would be just the thing if I have to go through another 11 weeks of no dustmen. I remember on a ranch in Mississippi burning all that could be burned, waste disposing all that could be disposed of, and hammering flat tins and burying them by the barbed wire perimeter. Home on the range there ain't no dustmen at all.

I am not a great lover of exhibitions, but I could not help thinking that I certainly wouldn't get beautifully cooked French food (hot or cold) at either Olympia or Earl's Court, and there were several hundred people tucking in at a time. The housekeeping of the exhibition was also excellent—no rubbish, no paper cups—would that we could do the same.

Exhibitions are death to the feet (I didn't even get to the giant hall full of reproduction furniture) but our indefatigable hosts took us out to dinner, as we left, a bride and groom drove up in full dress to the hotel, all by themselves, like a scene from a Bunuel film—but we were all set for the Crazy Horse Saloon. It's difficult to entertain 30 assorted foreigners, one of whom speaks only Japanese, apart from feeding them, which is enough for

me, but a high proportion of the party turned out to be female.

The ladies drank rather a lot of champagne with increasing gloom as Olga Waterproof, Vanilla Banana, Trucule Bonbon, Miss Volupte (and others) wandered in and out of view, miming in an exhausted way the extremes of passion to canned music. Le Moulin Rouge the next night was a lot more fun, partly because M Gautier was dragged up on the stage as part of a ventriloquist's act, and proved himself a jolly good sport.

A mild wonder overcame me (it must have been the champagne) how on earth do they think up all these variations of boots and hats and nothing much in between. There is some very attractive and elegant French furniture being made at the moment, which compares well with the more flamboyant Italian styles. The Alain Delon range (shown here) is very much in the gleaming cream lacquer, brass inlaid, film starry vein, and can be seen at Maples, together with furniture designed by Pierre Balmain, and I hope that there is more to come. There is at least one eager customer for a rubbish compactor: who knows? I might even get to like something huge and rustic.

Enquiries for Arthur Bonnet Kitchens to Cuisines Bonnet UK, 10-12 Bromley Road, Beckenham, Tel: 01-855 0271. Enquiries for Tro Pic Garden Furniture to Furnishing Exports, 31a Winchester Street, Basingstoke, Hampshire. Tel: 0256 54745.

Following my piece last week, I was delighted to hear that the beautiful turntable designed by David Gossman (to which our photograph did not do justice) is manufactured by J. A. Mitchell Engineering Ltd, who say they have made some 9,000 for the discriminating since 1973. They can be found at 2 Theobald Street, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire. Tel: 01-953 0771/2.

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